

1 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

2 U.S. SENATE

3 WASHINGTON, D.C.

4

5

6

7 INTERVIEW OF: RINAT AKHMETSHIN

8

9

10

11 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

12 WASHINGTON, D.C.

13

14

15

16

17 The interview in this matter was held at the

18 U.S. Capitol Building, [REDACTED], commencing at

19 9:42 a.m.

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 APPEARANCES:

2 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

3 Jason A. Foster, Chief Investigative Counsel,

4 Chairman Grassley

5 Patrick Davis, Deputy Chief Investigative Counsel,

6 Chairman Grassley

7 Katherine Nikas, Investigative Counsel,

8 Chairman Grassley

9 Joshua Flynn-Brown, Investigative Counsel

10 Chairman Grassley

11 Daniel P. Parker, Investigative Assistant

12 Chairman Grassley

13 Lee Holmes, Chief Counsel, Senator Graham

14 Brian Privor, Senior Counsel,

15 Senator Feinstein

16 Heather Sawyer, General Counsel,

17 Senator Feinstein

18 Molly M. Claflin, Counsel,

19 Senator Feinstein

20 Jennifer Piatt, Counsel,

21 Senator Feinstein

22 Lara G. Quint, Chief Counsel,

23 Senator Whitehouse

24 Caitlin Meyer, Professional Staff Member, Senator

25 Feinstein

1 APPEARANCES (Cont'd):

2 FOR THE WITNESS:

3 Michael Tremonte, Esq.

4 Michael Gibaldi, Esq.

5

6 ALSO PRESENT:

7 Senator Richard Blumenthal

8

9

10 I N D E X

11 EXAMINATION BY

12 COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY: PAGE

13 By Mr. Davis 12, 34, 35, 41

14 By Mr. Foster 33, 35, 40

15 FURTHER EXAMINATION

16 By Mr. Davis 113, 126, 141, 146, 154

17 By Mr. Foster 125, 140, 144, 149

18 By Mr. Davis 190, 200, 209, 211

19 By Mr. Foster 198, 208, 210, 211, 226, 230

20 By Ms. Nikas 212, 226

21 By Mr. Holmes 235

22

23

24

25

1 I N D E X (Cont'd)

2 EXAMINATION BY

3 COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY

4 By Ms. Claflin 58, 64, 89, 93, 108, 112

5 By Mr. Privor 62, 88, 101, 106

6 By Ms. Sawyer 90, 100, 105, 108, 111

7 FURTHER EXAMINATION

8 By Ms. Claflin 151, 168, 180, 186

9 By Mr. Privor 165, 179

10 By Ms. Sawyer 185, 189

11 By Ms. Claflin 224

12

13 EXHIBITS

14 AKHMETSHIN EXHIBITS PAGE

15 Exhibit 1 14

16 Mr. Akhmetshin's declaration

17 Exhibit 2 16

18 Mr. Akhmetshin's deposition

19 Exhibit 3 34

20 Bloomberg Email

21 Exhibit 4 36

22 Email

23 Exhibit 5 39

24 NBC News article

25

1	EXHIBITS (Cont'd)	
2	Exhibit 6	41
3	HRAGI Lobbying Disclosure Form	
4	Exhibit 7	48
5	Email chain	
6	Exhibit 8	112
7	Email chain	
8	Exhibit 9	128
9	Email	
10	Exhibit 10	130
11	CNN article	
12	Exhibit 11	146
13	Second Declaration in IMR litigation	
14	Exhibit 12	147
15	Part of deposition in IMR litigation	
16	Exhibit 13	152
17	Kaveladze phone bill	
18	Exhibit 14	154
19	Document by Kaveladze's attorney	
20	Exhibit 15	181
21	Akis Phanartzis Declaration	
22	Exhibit 16	183
23	Judge Kessler opinion	
24	Exhibit 17	184
25	IMR Complaint	

1	EXHIBITS (Cont'd)	
2	Exhibit 18	189
3	New York Times article	
4	Exhibit 19	190
5	Email chain	
6	Exhibit 20	192
7	First Declaration in IMR litigation	
8	Exhibit 21	194
9	Treasury Department press release	
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. DAVIS: Good morning. This is the
3 transcribed interview of Rinat Akhmetshin. On
4 October 18, 2017, Chairman Grassley sent Mr.
5 Akhmetshin a letter stating that the Judiciary
6 Committee was seeking information related to a
7 meeting held on June 9, 2016, at Trump Tower, as
8 well as related matters. The letter requested an
9 interview and certain categories of documents.

10 In response, Mr. Akhmetshin has through
11 his counsel agreed to this voluntary interview and
12 yesterday provided 13 pages of documents.

13 Would the witness please state your name
14 for the record.

15 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Rinat Akhmetshin.

16 MR. DAVIS: On behalf of the Chairman, I
17 want to thank Mr. Akhmetshin for appearing here
18 today. My name is Patrick Davis, and I'm the
19 Deputy Chief Investigative Counsel with the
20 Committee's majority staff.

21 I'll ask everyone else from the Committee
22 who is here to introduce themselves as well, and
23 we'll get to Mr. Akhmetshin's counsel in just a
24 few moments.

25 MR. FOSTER: I'm Jason Foster. I'm the

1 Chief Investigative Counsel for the Chairman,
2 Chairman Grassley's staff.

3 MR. HOLMES: Lee Holmes, Chief Counsel to
4 Lindsey Graham.

5 MS. QUINT: Lara Quint, Chief Counsel for
6 Senator Whitehouse.

7 MS. MEYER: Caitlin Meyer, Senator
8 Feinstein's office.

9 MS. CLAFLIN: Molly Claflin, Counsel for
10 Senator Feinstein.

11 MS. SAWYER: Heather Sawyer, General Counsel
12 for Senator Feinstein.

13 SENATOR BLUMENTHAL: Richard Blumenthal,
14 U.S. Senator, Connecticut.

15 MR. PRIVOR: Brian Privor, Senior Counsel
16 for Senator Feinstein.

17 MR. PARKER: Daniel Parker, Investigative
18 Assistant, Chairman Grassley.

19 MS. NIKAS: Katherine Nikas, Investigative
20 Counsel, Chairman Grassley.

21 MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Josh Flynn-Brown,
22 Investigative Counsel for Senator Grassley.

23 MR. DAVIS: The Federal Rules of Civil
24 Procedure do not apply to any of the Committee's
25 investigative activities, including transcribed

1 interviews. There are some guidelines we follow,
2 and I'll go over those now.

3 Our questioning will proceed in rounds.
4 The majority staff will ask questions first for
5 one hour. Then the minority staff will have the
6 opportunity to ask questions for an equal amount
7 of time. We will go back and forth until there
8 are no more questions and the interview is over.

9 We typically take a short break at the
10 end of each hour, but should you need to take a
11 break at any other time, please just let us know.
12 We can discuss taking a break for lunch whenever
13 you're ready to do that.

14 We have an official reporter taking down
15 everything we say to make a written record, so we
16 ask that you give verbal responses to all
17 questions. Do you understand?

18 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes, I do, sir.

19 MR. DAVIS: So that the court reporter can
20 take down a clear record, we'll do our best to
21 limit the number of people directing questions to
22 you during any given hour to those whose turn it
23 is. It's also important that we don't talk over
24 one another or interrupt each other if we can help
25 it. That goes for everybody present at today's

1 interview.

2 While Senators on the Committee may
3 observe, the Chairman and Ranking Member have
4 agreed that only staff will ask questions.

5 We encourage witnesses who appear before
6 the Committee to consult freely with counsel if
7 they so choose. You are appearing here today with
8 counsel. Counsel, please state your name for the
9 record.

10 MR. TREMONTE: My name is Michael Tremonte.

11 MR. GIBALDI: And Michael Gibaldi.

12 MR. TREMONTE: And as we have indicated to
13 the court reporter, we're from the same firm,
14 which is Sher Tremonte in New York.

15 MR. DAVIS: We want you to answer our
16 questions in the most complete and truthful manner
17 possible, so we will take our time. If you have
18 any questions or if you don't understand any of
19 our questions, please let us know. If you
20 honestly don't know the answer to a question or
21 don't remember, it's best not to guess. Just give
22 us your best recollection. It's okay to tell us
23 if you learned information from someone else if
24 you indicate how you came to know the information.
25 If there are things that you don't know or can't

1 remember, we ask that you inform us to the best of
2 your knowledge who might be able to provide a more
3 complete answer to the question.

4 This interview is unclassified, so if any
5 question calls for information that you know to be
6 classified, please state that for the record as
7 well as the reason for the classification. Then
8 once you've clarified that, to the extent
9 possible, please respond with as much unclassified
10 information as you can. If we need to have a
11 classified session later, that can be arranged.

12 It is this Committee's practice to honor
13 valid common law privilege claims as an
14 accommodation to a witness or party when those
15 claims are made in good faith and accompanied by
16 sufficient explanation so that the Committee can
17 evaluate the claim. When deciding whether to
18 honor a privilege, the Committee weighs its need
19 for the information against any legitimate basis
20 for withholding it. The Committee typically does
21 not honor contractual confidentiality agreements.

22 You should understand that although the
23 interview is not under oath, by law you are
24 required to answer questions from Congress
25 truthfully. Do you understand that?

1 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes, I do, sir.

2 MR. DAVIS: Specifically, 18 U.S.C. Section
3 1001 makes it a crime to make any materially
4 false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or
5 representation in the course of a congressional
6 investigation. That statute applies to your
7 statements in this interview. Do you understand
8 that?

9 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Understood, sir.

10 MR. DAVIS: Witnesses who knowingly provide
11 false statements could be subject to criminal
12 prosecution and imprisonment for up to five years.
13 Do you understand this?

14 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I do understand, sir.

15 MR. DAVIS: Is there any reason you're
16 unable to provide truthful answers to today's
17 questions?

18 MR. AKHMETSHIN: There is no reason.

19 MR. DAVIS: Finally, we ask that you not
20 speak about what we discuss in this interview with
21 anyone else outside of who's here in the room
22 today in order to preserve the integrity of our
23 investigation. We also ask that you not remove
24 any exhibits or other Committee documents from the
25 interview.

1 Is there anything else that my colleagues
2 from the minority want to add?

3 MS. SAWYER: No, thank you.

4 MR. DAVIS: The time is now 9:47, and we
5 will get started with our first hour of questions.

6 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY

7 BY MR. DAVIS:

8 Q. Please state your full name for the
9 record.

10 A. Rinat Akhmetshin.

11 Q. Where do you currently reside?

12 A. I reside in Washington, D.C., [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED].

14 Q. Where are you from originally?

15 A. I was born in Kazan, Russia, actually
16 Soviet Union at that time.

17 Q. When did you move to the United States?

18 A. I arrived to United States in 1994.

19 Q. When did you become an American citizen?

20 A. I became a U.S. citizen in 2009.

21 Q. Are you a dual citizen of the Russian
22 Federation or any other country?

23 A. I am.

24 Q. Is it the Russian Federation?

25 A. Russian Federation, correct.

1 Q. What is your educational background?

2 A. I have a Ph.D. My highest -- I have
3 several degrees. My highest degree is a Ph.D. in
4 bioorganic chemistry.

5 Q. And what is your professional background?

6 A. I am a consultant, media consultant, and
7 lobbyist sometimes.

8 MR. DAVIS: Okay. I'd like you to take a
9 look at a document. This is your sworn
10 declaration from the *Egiazaryan v. Zalmayev*
11 lawsuit. We'll label this Exhibit 1.

12 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 1 was marked for
13 identification.]

14 MR. TREMONTE: Since there's no question
15 pending, I'm going to remind my client, whenever
16 you're presented with a document that's been
17 marked as an exhibit, you want to take the time to
18 read it carefully before you answer any questions.

19 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Okay.

20 BY MR. DAVIS:

21 Q. I'd like you to look at paragraph number
22 5 in which you stated, "Some of my clients are
23 national governments or high-ranking officials in
24 those governments."

25 Mr. Akhmetshin, which governments have

1 been your clients. Please list every one.

2 A. I have represented Government of
3 Kyrgyzstan, and I also worked for the Government
4 of Kazakhstan.

5 Q. What was the context of your work for
6 each government client?

7 A. Government of Kyrgyzstan, I was working
8 on a number of issues for the office -- through
9 the law firm for the Office of Prosecutor General
10 of Kyrgyzstan after their revolution. And for
11 Government of Kazakhstan, I worked on issues of
12 recovering stolen money.

13 Q. And when did the work for each of those
14 countries occur?

15 A. Kyrgyzstan, I believe it was in 2005,
16 around-- I don't remember exactly, sir, but
17 somewhere around 2005, 2006.

18 Q. And for Kazakhstan?

19 A. For Kazakhstan, it was around 2009, 2010.

20 Q. How many clients do you have in an
21 average year?

22 A. Not as many as I want, but maybe one or
23 two.

24

25



23 Q. Have you ever worked, directly or
24 indirectly, for the Russian Government, whether
25 the Russian Federation or the Soviet Union?

1 A. I never worked for Russian Federation,
2 and I served in the military for Soviet Union.

3 MR. DAVIS: Okay. I'd like you to take a
4 look at another document. This is your deposition
5 from the *Egiazaryan v. Zalmayev* lawsuit. This
6 will be Exhibit 2.

7 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 2 was marked for
8 identification.]

9 [Pause.]

10 MR. DAVIS: Don't worry. We won't be going
11 through the whole thing.

12 MR. TREMONTE: Good.

13 BY MR. DAVIS:

14 Q. First I'd like you to take a look at
15 pages 58 and 59.

16 MR. TREMONTE: I'm sorry. Can you just give
17 a little context on this? You said it's a
18 deposition transcript from --

19 MR. DAVIS: That's right. It's from the
20 *Egiazaryan v. Zalmayev* case. This was a
21 deposition of Mr. Akhmetshin in March of 2012.

22 MR. TREMONTE: Thank you. Which page? 58?

23 MR. DAVIS: 58 and 59.

24 BY MR. DAVIS:

25 Q. The deposition contains this exchange

1 between the attorney and you: "Did you
2 participate in the war in which Russia was engaged
3 in Afghanistan before coming to the United
4 States?"

5 "Answer: In some capacity."

6 "Question: "In what capacity?"

7 "Answer: Soldier."

8 "Question: Have you ever worked for the
9 Russian Government other than as a soldier?"

10 "Answer: Just U.S. -- Soviet army, U.S. --
11 Army of U.S.S.R."

12 Then a bit later on page 59, there's the
13 following exchange:

14 "Question: When you served as a soldier,
15 who did you serve for?"

16 "Answer: I served for the Soviet Army. I
17 did not work."

18 "Question: Okay. Did you -- you work in a
19 specific division or department when you served
20 for the Soviet Army?"

21 "Answer: I was -- every soldier served in a
22 specific department. I did serve in my unit."

23 "Question: What unit was that?"

24 "Answer: Do you need the number?"

25 "Question: What was the -- yes, the unit

1 number?"

2 "Answer: 1 - - 12129."

3 If you'll turn to pages 144 and 145,
4 there's another passage I'd like you to review
5 before I ask a few questions.

6 In this exchange, the questioner
7 references a book by Steve LeVine titled "The Oil
8 and the Glory." That book mentions you. The
9 deposition has this exchange:

10 "Do you recall that it also refers to you as
11 a former Soviet Army counterintelligence officer?"

12 "Answer: It does."

13 Then on line 20 of that page, "Is the
14 statement that you are former Soviet Army
15 counterintelligence officer a correct statement?"

16 "Answer: It's not, uh, exactly correct
17 statement."

18 "Question: Do you know what the term
19 'Osobist' means?"

20 "Answer: Osobist, Osoby Otdel, Osobist?
21 Yes, it's called 'Special Service.'"

22 "Question: And is -- is that -- were you an
23 Osobist in the Soviet Army?"

24 "Answer: Our service had -- was -- has been
25 loosely associated with these services."

1 "Question: Can you describe for us what you
2 understand the term 'Osobist' to mean?"

3 "Answer: It's called the special
4 department. Osoby Otdel, Special Department."

5 "Question: And it -- does it -- it have --
6 play a role in counterintelligence?"

7 "Answer: Some parts of it does -- do, yes."

8 "Question: Okay. Is the characterization
9 of you as a counterintelligence officer accurate?"

10 "Answer: It's not accurate."

11 "Question: Did you tell him you were a
12 counterintelligence officer?"

13 "Answer: I told him I was a commandant,
14 this person."

15 Mr. Akhmetshin, you said in this
16 deposition that the statement that you are a
17 former Soviet Army counterintelligence officer is
18 not "exactly correct." Is it partially correct?

19 A. It's not correct at all.

20 Q. Okay. What was incorrect about it?

21 A. I was never a -- I was served -- I
22 served-- let me use my words carefully here. I
23 served in a unit as a Soviet soldier of the -- as
24 an army -- enlisted army officer, sergeant at that
25 time. I served in a unit which provided support

1 for Osoby, for counterintelligence unit.

2 Q. Have you ever served in an intelligence
3 or counterintelligence capacity for the Soviet
4 Union or the Russian Federation?

5 A. I have not.

6 Q. Have you ever worked with the GRU?

7 A. I have never worked with GRU.

8 MR. FOSTER: What was your answer to the
9 last question? I never worked with?

10 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I never served with GRU.

11 BY MR. DAVIS:

12 Q. Did you ever work with them informally?

13 A. I never worked with them informally.

14 Q. Have you ever worked with Osoby Otdel?

15 A. I served in a unit which provided support
16 for Osoby Otdel. Army unit.

17 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, have any of your family
18 members worked for Russian intelligence?

19 A. They have not.

20 Q. Have any of your family members worked
21 for U.S. intelligence, including the FBI?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Moving on, regardless of where they are
24 registered, which Russian companies and Russian-
25 owned companies have you worked for?

1 A. I worked for -- I'll try to put it
2 chronologically. I worked for oil company called
3 Severnaya -- S-E-V-E-R-N-A-Y-A -- Neft -- N-E-F-T.
4 It was in early 2000s. I worked for a hedge fund
5 which was associated -- owned by the same person
6 who used to own that company, which started
7 proceedings of sale of that oil company. I have
8 worked for -- in legal proceedings, I worked for a
9 Russian company called EuroChem. And I think
10 that's pretty much what comes to my mind so far.

11 Q. As part of your work, have you ever paid
12 journalists to publish stories that were in your
13 clients' interest?

14 A. I never paid journalists.

15 Q. I'd like to move on to your relationship
16 with Ms. Veselnitskaya.

17 MR. TREMONTE: May we have just one moment,
18 please?

19 MR. DAVIS: Of course.

20 [Counsel confers with witness.]

21 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Oh, I'm sorry. It's a
22 Cyprus company but owned by Russian individual,
23 Prevezon. Sorry. P-R-E-V-E-Z-O-N.

24 MR. TREMONTE: Yeah, and just to clarify the
25 record, I believe Mr. Akhmetshin stated in

1 response to that question that he worked for at
2 least one -- I believe it's actually two companies
3 in a legal capacity, and I believe in those
4 instances Mr. Akhmetshin was employed by a law
5 firm that was in turn retained by the company, so
6 I don't think the employment relationship is
7 direct.

8 MR. DAVIS: Thank you for clarifying.

9 MR. TREMONTE: Sure.

10 BY MR. DAVIS:

11 Q. Did you have any other indirect
12 employment relationships with Russian companies?

13 A. Not with Russian.

14 Q. When did you first have communications
15 with Natalia Veselnitskaya?

16 A. Could you clarify? When did I meet her
17 first?

18 Q. When did you interact with her first,
19 whether it was via email or phone --

20 A. Understood.

21 Q. -- or in person?

22 A. I met Natalia Veselnitskaya for first
23 time in late 2015.

24 Q. How did you first connect with her? Did
25 you initiate the contact? Did she? Or did a

1 third party?

2 A. A third party initiated contact.

3 Q. And who was that third party?

4 A. A partner in a law firm.

5 Q. Was it a partner from BakerHostetler?

6 A. It was a partner in BakerHostetler.

7 Q. And was it Mark Cymrot or --

8 A. It was Mark Cymrot.

9 Q. To the best of your knowledge, is Ms.
10 Veselnitskaya an attorney for the Russian
11 Government?

12 A. I don't believe so.

13 Q. Do you know if she ever has been an
14 attorney for the Russian Government?

15 A. She served as assistant Russian -- she
16 served in an office of -- Russian prosecutor's
17 office.

18 MR. TREMONTE: Okay. Just again, so the
19 record's clear, you were asked do you know. Do
20 you have firsthand knowledge of that or is that
21 something you --

22 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I learned it from the
23 media.

24 BY MR. DAVIS:

25 Q. From the media, okay. Not from Ms.

1 Veselnitskaya herself?

2 A. I don't remember her being specific about
3 that.

4 Q. When you first interacted with Ms.
5 Veselnitskaya, what did you understand her
6 business to be?

7 A. My understanding was and she was
8 introduced to me as a co-counsel, Russian co-
9 counsel for the civil forfeiture case in Southern
10 District of New York.

11 Q. And as far as you understood it, was she
12 representing -- was she Prevezon Holdings'
13 attorney or a personal attorney for Mr. Katsyv?
14 Or both?

15 A. I'm not sure.

16 Q. What is your understanding of her
17 relationship with Prevezon Holdings?

18 A. My understanding that she first of all
19 was a close personal friend of the owner of
20 Prevezon, but also she was a co-counsel. I would
21 believe that -- I never -- to be honest, I never
22 kind of made that distinction. She was there
23 always. But my understanding that she was a co-
24 counsel for Prevezon in those proceedings.

25 Q. And what's your understanding of her

1 relationship with Denis Katsyv?

2 A. I believe that she also represented him
3 on a previous -- she told me that she represented
4 him in previous legal proceedings in Russia, and I
5 know for a fact that they're very old friends.

6 Q. What's your understanding of her
7 relationship with Pyotr --

8 MR. FOSTER: Before you go on, what were
9 those previous legal proceedings, if she told you?
10 What were they about?

11 MR. AKHMETSHIN: She mentioned to me that
12 there was an extortion case. There was -- Denis
13 Katsyv, there was an attempt to extort him, and
14 they kind of fought that case, and the people who
15 tried to extort him were imprisoned.

16 BY MR. DAVIS:

17 Q. What is your understanding of Ms.
18 Veselnitskaya's relationship with Pyotr Katsyv?

19 A. I'm not aware of that. I'm sure they're
20 -- I might have seen them together once, but I'm
21 not sure about the extent of their relations.

22 Q. All right. What's your understanding of
23 her relationship with Aras Agalarov?

24 A. I'm not aware of this.

25 Q. With Emin Agalarov?

1 A. I'm not aware of this relations.

2 Q. And what about her relationship with Yuri
3 Chaika?

4 A. I'm not aware of this relations.

5 Q. Has Ms. Veselnitskaya ever directly paid
6 you for your services?

7 A. She has never paid me directly.

8 Q. Were you ever paid by Prevezon Holdings
9 or its affiliated companies?

10 A. I have never been paid by Prevezon
11 Holdings.

12 Q. What was your relationship, if any, with
13 Prevezon Holdings?

14 A. I worked as a consultant for the law
15 firm, which -- U.S. law firm which represented
16 Prevezon in civil forfeiture proceedings in
17 Southern District of New York.

18 Q. Was that BakerHostetler?

19 A. It was BakerHostetler, yes, sir.

20 Q. Did you continue as a consultant on that
21 case after Baker and Hostetler ceased to be
22 attorney of record?

23 A. No.

24 Q. So is it correct then that you were paid
25 for this work by BakerHostetler?

1 A. That is correct, sir.

2 Q. Okay. Do you know Ed Lieberman?

3 A. I do know Ed Lieberman.

4 Q. When did you first meet him?

5 A. I met Ed Lieberman first in the fall of
6 1998.

7 Q. As far as you know, what is Mr.
8 Lieberman's business?

9 A. Mr. Lieberman is an attorney.

10 Q. And what is the nature of your
11 relationship with him?

12 A. He was -- he was an attorney for my first
13 employer here in -- one of my first employers here
14 in Washington, D.C., while he was a partner at
15 Coudert Brothers, C-O-U-D-E-R-T Brothers, law
16 firm. And after he left that practice, he and I,
17 we represent a number of clients together.

18 Q. And who was your first employer here?

19 A. My first employer was Zurich-based
20 foundation called Kazakhstan 21st Century
21 Foundation.

22 Q. What did you understand Mr. Lieberman's
23 role to be in the Prevezon- and Magnitsky Act-
24 related work?

25 A. It is my understanding that Mr. Lieberman

1 provided legal opinion for proceedings in -- in
2 connection with the civil forfeiture case in
3 Southern District of New York on Prevezon.

4 Q. What was your involvement with Mr.
5 Lieberman in the course of the Prevezon-Magnitsky
6 work?

7 A. I never worked directly with him. I had
8 my own -- he is a tax attorney, so he -- I believe
9 he provided -- he's actually very well established
10 and well-respected tax attorney. And so he was
11 invited to provide a legal opinion on and he had
12 done extensive work in Russian -- in Soviet Union
13 and Russian Federation. So he is an expert on
14 both Russian and U.S. taxation.

15 Q. Can you please explain how and why the
16 Human Rights Accountability Global Initiative was
17 created?

18 A. That foundation was created to advance a
19 number of issues here in Washington, D.C., and its
20 ultimate goal was to restart adoption of Russian
21 orphans by U.S. citizens.

22 Q. And was the predicate for that
23 restoration removing the Magnitsky Act?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. What actions did you view as necessary to

1 restore the adoption program?

2 A. As I mentioned -- if I may explain, as I
3 mentioned, there were like ultimate goal and a few
4 intermediate goals around that, so I will give you
5 the historic background.

6 In the course of my work for
7 BakerHostetler, I was invited to analyze some
8 documents and -- both in Russian and English,
9 documents from the docket in the civil forfeiture
10 case. And while reviewing these documents, I
11 discovered that some of the English translations
12 which were filed -- of some documents which were
13 filed with the court in Southern District are
14 inaccurate and falsified. So, for example, there
15 will be a deposition, protocol deposition of a
16 witness, for example, actually Mr. Magnitsky, and
17 that protocol was -- and it had this -- it's all
18 handwritten, and then there would be an English
19 translation, since I speak both Russian and
20 English, and I read them side by side. And in the
21 English translation, I've seen like large
22 paragraphs of text which did not exist in the
23 Russian original. They had PDF Xerox copies of -
24 Xerox copies of those documents. And it was
25 interesting. The parts where it absolutely --

1 like not even related to these things, and then
2 the description of the document was -- for
3 example, the document would be deposition of the
4 interrogation of someone who is suspected in like
5 tax case, but in English translation it will say
6 like this is the first report, whistleblowing
7 report of thing where not even like where these
8 like policemen were indicated. And there are not
9 even names of policemen in Russian documents.
10 They're not even mentioned by name or nothing of
11 any whistleblowing activity was even existed in
12 that thing.

13 So I find it shocking, and so -- and I
14 discovered a number of inconsistencies in the
15 process of reviewing documents in the docket in
16 Southern District, and I alerted partners, partner
17 from BakerHostetler to those inconsistencies.

18 In addition to that, I also reviewed
19 these video interviews of one of the persons who
20 was initiated -- who initiated that case in
21 Southern District and also reviewed his
22 testimonies to Congress. At least at that time
23 there were two testimonies which I studied
24 carefully, and I found the completely different
25 descriptions of events in each case. And then,

1 you know, there were like other kind of
2 explanations of those events in other things. So
3 the story was ever changing.

4 Q. Was that Mr. Browder's testimony?

5 A. That is correct, sir. Yes.

6 Q. I didn't mean to cut you off. Continue.

7 A. Yes, sir. So I alerted Mark Cymrot from
8 BakerHostetler of this thing, and he suggested me
9 to present these findings to his clients. And so
10 having said that, I also looked into this
11 Magnitsky law. So when I see, and it was very
12 often, it's written that, you know, just I worked
13 to overturn sanctions to please Kremlin, that's
14 absolutely not true. In the process of my work, I
15 -- the only thing I -- I circulated two documents
16 to the members and staff on the relevant
17 committees and subcommittees, and at no point, at
18 no time did I ask to overturn sanctions. I
19 actually supported passage of this global law.
20 But I encouraged Members of U.S. Congress to check
21 the facts, because I also discovered that the
22 facts of Magnitsky story which were presented by
23 Mr. Browder to the U.S. Congress were never
24 checked, factually checked for accuracy. And also
25 I discovered that he was convicted of tax fraud

1 for which Mr. Magnitsky was interrogated, so the
2 only thing I ever asked in the process of my
3 lobbying work in connection with that bill was to
4 investigate the facts of this thing, and just it
5 wasn't very difficult, and I provided examples of
6 inaccuracies of these things.

7 Q. So was that action undertaken as part of
8 the Human Rights Accountability Global Initiative,
9 or was that as part of your work as a consultant
10 for Baker and Hostetler --

11 A. No, it was done for --

12 Q. Or both?

13 A. No, sir. It was done explicitly in my
14 capacity as working lobbyist for HRAGI. HRAGI, H-
15 R-A-G-I. That's interchangeable with Human
16 Accountability.

17 MR. FOSTER: I'm sorry. So could you just
18 back up then and explain generally speaking what
19 your -- the nature of your consultant work for
20 BakerHostetler and Prevezon was? What was your
21 role? What were you doing?

22 MR. TREMONTE: So Mr. Akhmetshin will do his
23 best to provide an answer that doesn't tread on
24 the attorney-client privilege, but I think at a
25 general level he can give an explanation.

1 MR. FOSTER: I'm not asking for
2 communications with the client. I'm asking what
3 was the nature of his work.

4 MR. TREMONTE: Okay.

5 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yeah, thank you. I was
6 brought in to -- and I do that work I would say
7 frequently, but I've done that work before. I was
8 brought in to review documents in run-up to --
9 BakerHostetler was about to conduct a number of
10 depositions of both -- of people, people in
11 connection with that civil forfeiture case. And
12 some of them were like U.S. agents, Treasury
13 agents, Homeland Security agents. There was Mr.
14 Browder and some number of other people. So I was
15 invited to review their statements and things they
16 said and check those statements for accuracy or
17 find some inconsistencies, which I found many.

18 BY MR. DAVIS:

19 Q. Whose idea was it to start HRAGI?

20 A. It was my suggestion to Mr. Katsyv to
21 start HRAGI.

22 Q. And when did you formally begin HRAGI?

23 A. I did not start HRAGI. HRAGI was set up
24 by Mr. Katsyv's lawyers. So I only worked for
25 HRAGI in a capacity of lobbyist. I was paid by

1 HRAGI for -- to provide advice and some research
2 and lobbying activities.

3 BY MR. FOSTER:

4 Q. With whom did you discuss the idea to
5 start HRAGI?

6 A. I discussed that idea to start HRAGI with
7 Mr. Katsyv and Ms. Veselnitskaya.

8 Q. Anyone else?

9 A. It was first time when I met them, that
10 was kind of thing -- I alerted them to these
11 inconsistencies, and that's -- and they asked what
12 can be done. I said that, you know, just this has
13 to be publicized, but there should be a forum in
14 which these facts should be kind of exposed or
15 addressed. So that was -- and they asked me what
16 was my advice, and as a long-time D.C. resident, I
17 know there's nothing better like taking these
18 things to the Hill.

19 BY MR. DAVIS:

20 Q. Did Mr. Lieberman have a role in HRAGI?

21 A. Mr. Lieberman was legal adviser to HRAGI.

22 Q. And what was HRAGI's relationship with
23 Prevezon Holdings?

24 A. I am not aware of any relations with
25 HRAGI with Prevezon.

1 MR. DAVIS: Okay. I'd like to look at a
2 document Bates-stamped RA-SEN-JUDICIARY-000001.

3 This will be Exhibit 3.

4 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 3 was marked for
5 identification.]

6 BY MR. DAVIS:

7 Q. This is one of the documents your
8 attorneys provided us. This is an email from a
9 Bloomberg News reporter to you in December of
10 2015. He states that he was told, "you were
11 handling media calls for Denis Katsyv and his
12 Prevezon companies." Were you handling media
13 relations for Denis Katsyv and the Prevezon
14 companies at this time?

15 A. I approached Bloomberg with some of my
16 findings. I approached their courts editor whom I
17 have known before from other cases, and I alerted
18 them about some of the inconsistencies in the
19 docket. I never represented Mr. Katsyv in a
20 public relation capacity, but I've done this work
21 in my capacity of working for Prevezon for
22 BakerHostetler.

23 Q. Okay. So you were providing information
24 to the journalist but not acting as -- what did
25 you say, public --

1 A. Public -- I was not a public affairs
2 consultant for Mr. Katsyv.

3 Q. Okay. Your response email states in
4 part, "I am traveling this week, but my colleague
5 Glenn Simpson, cc'd, will be able to brief you on
6 the particulars of the case." So is it correct
7 that Mr. Simpson was handling media relations for
8 Denis Katsyv and Prevezon?

9 A. I believe at that time Prevezon was
10 seeking consultant, public relation consultant,
11 and they eventually hired PR firm. But in the
12 interim, that role was played by some people. In
13 some capacity I reached out, and then Glenn
14 Simpson was providing some also work in that case
15 for -- I mean, his firm was working in that same
16 case, and since he's a former journalist, he knew
17 the particulars of the case, and I thought he will
18 be a good person to brief. And I previously asked
19 him whether he'll be comfortable doing that, and
20 he agreed to kind of step in.

21 Q. What was HRAGI's relationship with Fusion
22 GPS?

23 A. There were no relationship with HRAGI and
24 Fusion GPS.

25 Q. Okay. And you'll --

1 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Excuse me. Do you mind,
2 could I have some water?

3 MR. TREMONTE: Water? I'll get it for you.
4 No problem.

5 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't talk that much.

6 [Pause.]

7 MR. DAVIS: I'd like you to take a look at
8 the document Bates-stamped RA-SEN-JUDICIARY-
9 000005. This will be Exhibit 4.
10 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 4 was marked for
11 identification.]

12 BY MR. DAVIS:

13 Q. This is another email provided by your
14 counsel. It's an email from Glenn Simpson to
15 Natalia Veselnitskaya, you, and Murat Glashev. It
16 was sent on February 4, 2016. Mr. Simpson writes,
17 "Natalia, I understand the meeting is tonight at
18 9:00, but Rinat suggested we get together
19 beforehand. Are you free later this afternoon or
20 for dinner?"

21 What is the meeting at 9:00 he refers to?

22 A. I don't remember exactly. Maybe dinner?

23 Q. Did you meet with Mr. Simpson and Ms.
24 Veselnitskaya along with the legal team working on
25 the Prevezon case at any time?

1 A. I have, yes.

2 Q. Is it correct then that you had a
3 relationship with Fusion GPS in the course of your
4 consultant work for BakerHostetler on the Prevezon
5 case?

6 A. I did not have relations with them. They
7 were co-consultants.

8 Q. So you were working together on the same
9 project?

10 A. Not together. Again, as I mentioned, I
11 had very narrow kind of scope of work. Their work
12 was different. But I never worked directly with
13 them.

14 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea why Mr.
15 Simpson would have been suggesting that you meet
16 before the 9 o'clock meeting?

17 A. I don't remember.

18 Q. Okay. Fusion GPS provided research that
19 HRAGI used in its lobbying efforts; is that
20 correct?

21 A. Fusion GPS, let me explain it correctly.
22 It is my understanding that there is some
23 research which Fusion GPS have done for the
24 Prevezon case, in the civil forfeiture case, and
25 that research was later recycled for some of the

1 work which was done on behalf of HRAGI.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. HRAGI has never retained Fusion GPS or
4 other way around.

5 BY MR. FOSTER:

6 Q. So how did it come to be recycled?

7 A. Once you learn the facts, it's hard to
8 unlearn them, so...

9 Q. So you mean you learned them in the
10 course of working on the Prevezon case, and then
11 you used that information for HRAGI's purposes?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Without paying Mr. Simpson directly for
14 it?

15 A. He was -- I never paid Mr. Simpson. But
16 the results of this research were reflected in the
17 filings in the court, so it's a docket containing
18 pretty much every single thing which they did, so
19 I could tell that I researched -- I used the
20 research from docket in that civil forfeiture
21 case. So let's put it -- that will be more
22 correct so to say that I used the HRAGI -- HRAGI
23 used the research of Global GPS will not be
24 correct, or used these facts which came out as a
25 result of that work which was reflected in the

1 docket in the civil forfeiture case.

2 BY MR. DAVIS:

3 Q. NBC News recently published an article
4 based on an interview with Ms. Veselnitskaya
5 titled, "Trump Dossier Firm Also Supplied Info
6 Used in Meeting of Russians, Trump Team," which
7 I'll label as Exhibit 5.

8 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 5 was marked for
9 identification.]

10 MR. AKHMETSHIN: A picture of Mr. Simpson.

11 [Pause.]

12 BY MR. DAVIS:

13 Q. I'd like to go over a somewhat lengthy
14 excerpt from this article. The article states,
15 "In an interview with NBC News" --

16 A. Which -- I'm sorry. Which -- can I find
17 it?

18 Q. Oh, sure.

19 A. The second paragraph you started quoting,
20 right?

21 Q. It is the second paragraph. "In an
22 interview with NBC News, Russian lawyer Natalia
23 Veselnitskaya says she first received the
24 supposedly incriminating information she brought
25 to Trump Tower-- describing alleged tax evasion

1 and donations to Democrats -- from Glenn Simpson,
2 the Fusion GPS owner."

3 Farther down in the article, on the next
4 page, actually, the article states: "Months
5 before she met in June 2016 with Trump Jr.,
6 Veselnitskaya said she turned the information she
7 got from Simpson over to Russian Prosecutor
8 General Yuri Chaika, who she said sought to verify
9 it through his own investigation."

10 "In May 2016, the Russian prosecutor
11 general issued a statement seeking U.S. help in
12 investigating what he described as a tax evasion
13 scheme involving the Ziff brothers, American
14 investors, and British investor Bill Browder."

15 "Veselnitskaya said that statement was based
16 in part on information she provided in the fall of
17 2015."

18 "'I was in effect, the primary source of
19 this information for the Russian Prosecutor
20 General's office. They then published the facts I
21 uncovered.'"

22 "She got the information from Fusion GPS,
23 which prepared detailed reports in 2014, she
24 said."

25 Mr. Akhmetshin, does that account match

1 your understanding of the role of Fusion GPS'
2 research in this project?

3 A. I'm not aware of Fusion GPS research of
4 Ziff Brothers. I have no independent knowledge of
5 that.

6 Q. Okay. So when you reference information
7 being recycled, you aren't referencing the process
8 that she describes here?

9 A. I'm not aware of those things.

10 Q. You stated that your role with HRAGI was
11 as a lobbyist; is that correct?

12 A. Lobbyist and public affairs adviser.

13 Q. Did you have any other role with HRAGI?

14 A. No. No, I did not.

15 MR. DAVIS: Now let's take a look at one of
16 HRAGI's lobbying disclosure forms. This one is
17 from May 8, 2017. We'll label that Exhibit 6.

18 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 6 was marked for
19 identification.]

20 BY MR. DAVIS:

21 Q. Towards the bottom of page 2, it lists
22 you as a previously reported individual who is no
23 longer expected to act as a lobbyist for the
24 client. Why did you cease lobbying for HRAGI in
25 May of 2017?

1 A. Because I think that -- I filed, I think,
2 later disclosure as an individual lobbyist.

3 Q. Okay. And what was the basis for that
4 change in filing status?

5 A. Legal advice.

6 Q. Under No. 19 on page 2, the section on
7 the interest of each foreign entity in the
8 lobbying issues, the document states, "Mikhail
9 Ponomarev, Albert Nasibulin, Denis Katsyv,
10 Vladimir Lelyukh, and Berrylye Trading, Inc.
11 support policies that would reinstate the ability
12 for U.S. citizens to adopt Russian children."

13 Who is Mikhail Ponomarev?

14 A. I don't know.

15 Q. Who is Albert Nasibulin?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. Do you know who Vladimir -- I'm not
18 pronouncing --

19 A. Lelyukh.

20 Q. -- Lelyukh is?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. TREMONTE: Let's spell that for the
23 court reporter.

24 MR. AKHMETSHIN: L-E-L-Y-U-K-H.

25 MR. TREMONTE: Thank you.

1 MR. AKHMETSHIN: It's Belarussian name.

2 BY MR. DAVIS:

3 Q. Do you know who he is?

4 A. I do not.

5 Q. Do you know if he works for Sberbank?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. Okay. What is Berryle Trading,

8 Incorporated?

9 A. I don't know, sir.

10 Q. Were you ever paid by Berryle Trading,

11 Incorporated?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you ever have any relationship at all

14 with Berryle Trading, Incorporated?

15 A. Not that I'm aware of.

16 Q. Have you ever worked with Ms.

17 Veselnitskaya abroad?

18 A. Could you be more specific, please?

19 Q. Outside of the United States?

20 A. I did a small project with Ms.

21 Veselnitskaya in Brussels, Belgium.

22 Q. And was that related to the showing of

23 the film "The Magnitsky Act"?

24 A. That is correct, sir. Yes.

25 Q. Can you describe the circumstances

1 surrounding that work?

2 A. Sometime in the spring of 2016, Ms.
3 Veselnitskaya informed me that she was approached
4 by a movie director who shot a film which was
5 commissioned to him by the German television
6 company called ZDF. It's like their PBS. It's a
7 taxpayer-supported television station. And that
8 movie director, who previously have done very
9 prominent films which were screened in Cannes
10 Movie Festival and Sundance Movie Festival, I
11 believe he has some of his documentaries on
12 Netflix. So he researched the story of Mr.
13 Browder and Magnitsky Act, and she introduced me
14 to him in New York. And at that meeting he
15 presented that film. We watched that film
16 together, and one of the kind of suggestions for
17 Ms. Veselnitskaya was that we should make that
18 film -- should make people aware of that film,
19 existence of that film.

20 At that moment the film was scheduled to
21 be screened in ZDF. Actually they have this ARTE
22 -- A-R-T-E -- it's the sub-channel which shows
23 those documentaries, opera. It's very kind of
24 nice, channel which goes both in French and
25 German. It was scheduled to be screened in two

1 nights in May of 2016, and there are already like
2 promos running for it on those channels, but I
3 thought that it will be very helpful if that film
4 will be seen by people before screening. And Mr.
5 Nekrasov, who is the director of that film, also
6 had some longstanding relations with people in
7 European Union, in European Parliament, and one of
8 these -- so together we tried to organize a
9 screening of the film in European Parliament in
10 Brussels.

11 Q. And were you able to show the film?

12 A. No. The screening was canceled 20
13 minutes before.

14 Q. When did you first interact with Denis
15 Katsyv?

16 A. I met Mr. Katsyv the same time when I met
17 Ms. Veselnitskaya. It was at the end of 2015.

18 Q. And what is your relationship with him?

19 A. He was a client of the law firm I was
20 working for.

21 Q. Prior to the June 9, 2016, meeting at
22 Trump Tower, had you ever met or did you know Ike
23 Kaveladze?

24 A. I've never met him before June 9.

25 Q. And what do you understand Mr.

1 Kaveladze's business to be?

2 A. It was my understanding that he is an
3 employer-- employee of a real estate development
4 firm out of Russia.

5 Q. Have you ever worked with Mr. Kaveladze?

6 A. I have never worked with Mr. Kaveladze.

7 Q. To the best of your knowledge, has Mr.
8 Kaveladze had any role in the Prevezon or
9 Magnitsky work?

10 A. I'm not aware of that role.

11 Q. Do you have any reason to believe he has
12 ties to the Russian Government?

13 A. I am not aware of those ties.

14 Q. Prior to the June 9th meeting, did you
15 know Rob Goldstone?

16 A. I never met him before.

17 Q. When did you first meet him?

18 A. I met him -- I'm not even sure I was ever
19 introduced to him. I deduced that he was the
20 person who was in attendance in that meeting.

21 Q. What is your understanding of Mr.
22 Goldstone's work?

23 A. I don't have independent knowledge other
24 than which was reported in the newspapers.

25 Q. Do you have any reason to believe he has

1 ties to the Russian Government?

2 A. I'm not aware of those ties.

3 Q. Do you know Anatoli Samochornov?

4 A. I do know Anatoli Samochornov.

5 Q. When did you first meet him?

6 A. I believe actually at the same time that
7 I met Ms. Veselnitskaya and Katsyv.

8 Q. What was his role in the Prevezon case,
9 if any?

10 A. He is an interpreter, very talented
11 interpreter, and he was serving that capacity in
12 Prevezon case.

13 Q. What was his role with HRAGI?

14 A. He is someone who went through attempts
15 to adopt kids from Russia, and so he had personal
16 interest in this. And he have served as one of
17 the advisers, also as a translator. I think that
18 was his work. I'm not aware of like direct his
19 duties, but he was associated with her, yes.

20 Q. Do you know Ed Baumgartner?

21 A. I do know Ed Baumgartner.

22 Q. What was his role in the Prevezon
23 litigation, if any?

24 A. I believe he was one of the researchers
25 in that case.

1 Q. Do you know if he was working for Fusion
2 GPS in that context?

3 A. I'm not aware of -- I'm not sure. I
4 don't know.

5 Q. What role, if any, did he have in the
6 HRAGI lobbying or HRAGI in general?

7 A. I am not aware of any of his roles in
8 HRAGI matters.

9 Q. Who first contacted you about a meeting
10 between Ms. Veselnitskaya and Donald Trump, Jr.?

11 A. Ms. Veselnitskaya contacted me.

12 Q. When did she contact you?

13 A. She first contacted me to ask to meet for
14 lunch, and at lunch she informed me or invited me
15 to attend the meeting.

16 Q. Do you remember the date of that lunch?

17 A. I believe it was June 9th, the day of the
18 meeting.

19 Q. What did she tell you the purpose of the
20 meeting was to be?

21 A. She did not state exact purpose of the
22 meeting at that point. She said, "I got a meeting
23 with Donald Trump's son," and at some point she
24 said, "Do you want to come along?"

25 Q. When did she invite you for that lunch?

1 A. It was sometime in the morning of that
2 day, of June 9th.

3 MR. DAVIS: I'd like to introduce another
4 document. This will be Exhibit 7.

5 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 7 was marked for
6 identification.]

7 BY MR. DAVIS:

8 Q. This is an email chain between Ms.
9 Veselnitskaya and Rob Goldstone. It was sent on
10 June 9, 2016. If you look at the email in the
11 chain with the time stamp of 9:24, Ms.
12 Veselnitskaya writes, "Dear Mr. Goldstone, I am
13 writing to ask you to pass by Mr. Trump my request
14 to include our trusted associate and lobbyist, Mr.
15 Rinat Akhmetshin, who is working to advance these
16 issues with several Congressmen. He has
17 invaluable knowledge about the positions held by
18 the members of the Foreign Relations Committee
19 that will be very important to our discussion.
20 Mr. Akhmetshin has signed an NDA with us, as did
21 Mr. Samochornov. I will be awaiting your
22 decision."

23 To the best of your memory, had Ms.
24 Veselnitskaya contacted you prior to 9:24 in the
25 morning on June 9th about attending the lunch?

1 A. I don't remember exact time. I remember
2 it was in the morning. I don't remember exact
3 moment.

4 MR. FOSTER: But the question was had she
5 contacted you prior to that.

6 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't remember. I think
7 it was the first time she invited me -- first time
8 I heard about the meeting was at the lunch. So
9 she did not tell me -- she said, "I want to
10 discuss something with you," and did not say what
11 the matter was.

12 BY MR. DAVIS:

13 Q. When did you travel to New York around
14 the June 9th time? Was it on June 9th? Was it
15 earlier?

16 A. I have taken morning Acela train to New
17 York on June 9th.

18 Q. On June 9th? Did you travel with anyone?

19 A. I might have been there with Lieberman or
20 I might be traveling alone.

21 Q. And what was the purpose of your travel?

22 A. It was a personal matter in New York.

23 Q. And were you aware of Ms. Veselnitskaya's
24 planned trip to the United States in June prior to
25 her arrival?

1 A. In retrospect, while kind of reviewing
2 the documents, I discovered or I saw that there
3 was some exchange between me and her. She just
4 obtained her U.S. visa, and she was eager to
5 travel to United States. I do not remember
6 specifically whether I was specifically aware of
7 her presence in New York at that day, but now in
8 retrospect, I think I had some general kind of
9 understanding she might be in New York because she
10 informed me -- like literally I've seen some
11 things where she informed me that she issued for
12 U.S. visa.

13 Q. Did Mr. Lieberman attend the lunch you
14 were invited to?

15 A. He did not.

16 Q. Do you know what he did while you were at
17 that lunch?

18 A. Actually, let me tell you a bit more so
19 to give the context. I traveled, Mr. Lieberman
20 and I, we traveled to New York kind of -- we had
21 one shared goal and one kind of -- we had our own
22 things. I have a relative who is an actress,
23 theater actress in Russia, and she at that night
24 performed in a theater play.

25 MR. TREMONTE: She?

1 MR. AKHMETSHIN: She, yes. She performed in
2 theater play in New York, and so my sister
3 encouraged me to go to attend that play, and so I
4 purchased tickets for me and Mr. Lieberman a
5 couple days before. And so Mr. Lieberman's wife
6 had passed like a few months before that, and both
7 he and she are art collectors and kind of like
8 art, and in her memory he established a -- and she
9 got this honorary degree from one of the
10 universities in New York, so he established in her
11 memory a scholarship in art history, and he was in
12 New York that day to discuss arrangements with
13 Metropolitan Museum with kind of taking care of
14 that scholarship award, like some regents who
15 would kind of host the students with these things.
16 So -- and he actually kind of suggested to me, if
17 I remember correctly, I want to go, but he said it
18 will be not much fun there, so it will be
19 meetings. But it was an opportunity also to see
20 maybe like, you know, the Met has paintings there,
21 but they have a lot of storage stuff and some
22 interesting things there. So kind of I remember
23 we discussed something to that effect at the time,
24 but I don't remember now, but I think I had some
25 other plans. And so we agreed to meet in the

1 evening to attend a play, and while there, I
2 remember Ms. Veselnitskaya called me. I was
3 actually in the store shopping. So I remember I
4 was holding a shirt, and I kind of had to manage
5 the phone and shirt. And so he was not even aware
6 of the meeting or lunch at that time.

7 BY MR. DAVIS:

8 Q. Who attended the lunch other than you and
9 Ms. Veselnitskaya?

10 A. By the time I arrived to that lunch,
11 lunch was already ongoing, and even before. So I
12 joined them for a cup of coffee, and when I went
13 there, I saw Ms. Veselnitskaya. I saw Anatoli
14 Samochornov, the translator. And there was
15 another gentleman there who later I realized was
16 Ike Kaveladze.

17 Q. What was discussed at the lunch?

18 A. It was more of kind of history of
19 Russian-- I remember a number of things. They
20 already were in conversation, which I kind of did
21 not follow. I mean, they had already been there
22 probably for a while by the time I arrived there.
23 But I remember there was a discussion about the
24 tax schemes in Russia, these criminal tax schemes,
25 and how people employ foreigners and some Russians

1 employ those tax schemes, and it was related to, I
2 believe, at that time to this scheme which Ziff
3 Brothers hedge fund, Ziff Brothers used to evade
4 taxes and make super profits there.

5 Q. Had you heard this type of information
6 before, or were you already familiar with this --

7 A. I was familiar with that scheme before
8 because Ms. Veselnitskaya kind of developed this
9 knowledge with help of some private researcher and
10 with her own study of this tax case in Russia.
11 And so I heard about this scheme before. I was
12 aware of it.

13 Q. And who was the private researcher that
14 was working --

15 A. I don't know exactly. I know that she
16 had-- because some of the stuff she -- I know that
17 she -- she told me that she obtained through
18 analysis of this tax case, and then that some of
19 the stuff was obtained through Cyprus, and I
20 believe that she employed someone to obtain this
21 Cyprus banking and corporate information.

22 Q. What else was discussed at the lunch?
23 Did you discuss the meeting that was to occur?

24 A. Not really.

25 Q. Were any other -- did any other topics

1 come up?

2 A. You know, we talked a little bit about
3 this adoption issue, and she asked me, "What do
4 you think I should tell this Trump's son?" And I
5 actually cautioned her, you know, the Russians are
6 -- they kind of attack you first thing, there's no
7 like small talk, so I told her, "Don't do that."
8 I said like be polite, you know, just don't kind
9 of throw all your stuff at him. I mean, she just
10 -- I believe at that time they just won the
11 nomination with the primaries. And I said, you
12 know, congratulate them with this primaries win
13 and, you know, just kind of -- don't just dump all
14 of it right away. So kind of do some small talk.

15 Q. Prior to the meeting on June 9, 2016, did
16 you tell anybody about the meeting?

17 A. I was not aware of the meeting.

18 Q. Between finding -- between when you were
19 invited at lunch and the meeting itself, did you
20 discuss it with anybody other than the lunch
21 attendees?

22 A. No, no. I was on my own. I wasn't even
23 aware that -- when she called me, I was not aware
24 of that she will be inviting me. And actually,
25 you know, I also wasn't dressed for the meeting.

1 I was wearing jeans and T-shirt and things, so I
2 actually was -- when she invited me, I was
3 slightly hesitant. I said, like, "You sure?" kind
4 of thing. And she looked at Ike, and he kind of
5 like said yeah, kind of.

6 Q. Did Ms. Veselnitskaya give you any reason
7 to believe that the meeting was to be kept secret?

8 A. I don't remember her being specific about
9 that.

10 Q. Did you get any general impression from
11 her?

12 A. I don't remember this issue of secrecy
13 being discussed explicitly.

14 MR. DAVIS: All right. I think that's it
15 for my hour. We'll take a -- we'll go off the
16 record and take a short break. It's now 10:47.

17 [Recess at 10:47 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.]

18 MS. CLAFLIN: All right. So we're back on
19 at 10:55.

20 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY

21 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

22 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, I'm Molly Claflin. I'm
23 counsel for Senator Feinstein, and I thank you
24 again for coming here today to speak with us.

25 A. Good morning. I'm glad I could be of

1 help.

2 Q. I'm going to pick up a little bit around
3 where Patrick was. I think you've testified that
4 Ms. Veselnitskaya invited you to the meeting that
5 very morning on June 9th.

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Did she tell you anything about why she
8 wanted you to come to the meeting?

9 A. Not on the phone call. I learned about
10 the meeting only at lunch, and she -- you know, it
11 was not really clear to me what -- that she wants
12 me to be there. She told me in the beginning, she
13 said, "I'm having this meeting with Trump's son.
14 And what do you think I should tell him?" So she
15 kind of -- and I told her that, you know, it's a
16 good opportunity because, you know, as I mentioned
17 earlier, I discovered that the Magnitsky law was
18 based on a falsification and a lie and the story
19 was never checked. And I said that -- and already
20 in the process of primaries at that time, this
21 whole issue of U.S.-Russia relationship came upon,
22 and I said that it would be a good example of how
23 at least some small step forward and restoring
24 adoptions could be a good sign. And at that time
25 I already met some of these American families who

1 were stuck in this legal limbo. They adopted kids
2 but they cannot take them out of Russia. There
3 were a number of families like that. So I said
4 this will be meaningful to many people, and it
5 also would expose how, you know, this U.S.-Russian
6 relation deteriorate. Sometime there are
7 objective reasons for deterioration in the
8 relations, but sometimes it's based on someone
9 just making up the story and then U.S. Government
10 not checking that story correctly.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So I said that will be a good opportunity
13 to tell, and then she looked at me and said, "Why
14 don't you come with me?" And I told her, like,
15 "You sure?" You know, stressed, and she looked
16 into Ike, and Ike said yeah, and that's kind of --
17 that's how I kind of came in. And I believe that
18 she wanted my advice on both kind of to present at
19 that meeting.

20 Q. She didn't give you any indication of
21 your expected role there?

22 A. She did not.

23 Q. And you yourself, it sounds like, didn't
24 have a particular goal in attending?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Were you paid to attend?

2 A. I was not paid to attend.

3 Q. Actually, that's Exhibit 7. Yes, Exhibit
4 7. I don't think you're copied on this email, but
5 in the email Ms. Veselnitskaya says, "Mr.
6 Akhmetshin has signed an NDA with us, as did Mr.
7 Samochornov." Do you know who "us" is that she's
8 referring to?

9 A. To which? I'm sorry.

10 MR. PRIVOR: Here, it says "signed NDA with
11 us."

12 MR. AKHMETSHIN: NDA, us. You know, I --

13 MR. TREMONTE: First, do you know who she's
14 referring to?

15 MR. AKHMETSHIN: "Us," I don't know.

16 MS. CLAFLIN: Okay.

17 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

18 Q. So as far as you know, you didn't have a
19 client at the meeting, and you weren't paid to go
20 to the meeting.

21 A. I was not.

22 Q. Okay. So you were not working, as far as
23 you know, on behalf of any particular entity at
24 the meeting?

25 A. No, I was not aware that this was on

1 behalf of a meeting she asked me for and advise
2 in. I was, quite frankly, curious. I was
3 surprised that she got this meeting, and I'm
4 curious, like, what's going to happen.

5 MR. TREMONTE: Right, and just by way of
6 clarification, did you -- had you signed an NDA in
7 connection with anything that also --

8 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I have no recollection of
9 signing any NDA in connection with this meeting,
10 but I have signed general NDA when I started
11 working as a court order, actually. So I sign
12 these like general NDA when I started working for
13 this case in Southern District.

14 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

15 Q. On the Prevezon case?

16 A. Correct, yes.

17 Q. But that was not an NDA with
18 Veselnitskaya herself?

19 A. No, I don't remember that.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. That's the only NDA --

22 MR. TREMONTE: And that's also a matter --

23 MR. AKHMETSHIN: -- which I remember.

24 MS. CLAFLIN: Sure.

25 BY MR. PRIVOR:

1 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, did she give you a reason
2 why she wanted you to go to the meeting?

3 A. I think it kind of happened like on spur
4 of the moment. You know, when we were talking, as
5 I explained earlier, she said, "What do you think
6 I should tell?" And, you know, we're talking, and
7 then she said, "You know, why don't you come?" So
8 that's kind of literally what happened right there
9 at the table, so she said.

10 Q. So she asked for your advice. You gave
11 her advice on what to say.

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. But then she followed that up with, "Why
14 don't you also come to the meeting?"

15 A. Correct, yes.

16 Q. And was there an added purpose for why
17 you should also come to the meeting?

18 A. It was not -- never spelled out or
19 specified. She never told me, like, "Come here and
20 say this." It was, "Do you want to come along?" I
21 go, "Yeah, sure."

22 Q. Did she suggest that you were going to
23 have a role at the meeting?

24 A. She did not suggest any role.

25 Q. Did she ask you to repeat anything you

1 had said to her at the meeting?

2 A. No, she did not. It kind of was very
3 light-hearted, not -- no specific, "You say this,
4 I will go 5 minutes and you go 3 minutes." None
5 of it.

6 Q. So were you expecting to be just an
7 observer at the meeting?

8 A. Yes. But also during the meeting, I
9 thought that if the turn will come for me to
10 speak, I was thinking what should I say, and I was
11 trying to say it very -- in a short, succinct way.

12 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

13 Q. Did you discuss at the lunch how you
14 might present at the meeting?

15 A. No.

16 Q. I believe you said at the lunch that you
17 discussed Russian relations generally and some
18 other related issues. Was there anything about
19 strategizing for the meeting that came up at the
20 lunch?

21 A. As I mentioned earlier, I told her like
22 how to present and how not to, kind of in the
23 form, it should be like light-hearted and not to
24 speak too long, because she kind of tends to speak
25 long. I said like keep your sentences short and

1 kind of don't waste people's time and kind of
2 that's -- but not like specific, "I will say this,
3 you say that." None of it was discussed, just
4 really kind of normal lunch. It was conducted in
5 Russian, and we kind of talked about general
6 things. And I don't remember any specific
7 planning or strategizing for that.

8 Q. Okay. You testified, I think, that you
9 told her to congratulate the Trump campaign on the
10 primary.

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Did you tell her to say anything about
13 Hillary Clinton?

14 A. I don't remember. I don't remember me
15 mentioning Hillary Clinton at all.

16 Q. And also at the lunch, did you see any
17 documents or other information that was being
18 discussed as being passed out at the meeting?

19 A. At the lunch I saw she had this like
20 clear plastic folder which had these papers which
21 I have seen before about the Ziff Brothers, like
22 summary of Ziff Brothers' actions, and -- but we
23 did not discuss the documents specifically, and
24 she -- I kind of -- I don't remember even scanning
25 for it, but I've seen that document before.

1 Q. So you didn't discuss it in depth, but
2 you did look at it?

3 A. I kind of -- I don't remember exactly,
4 but I might have kind of browsed, but I was
5 familiar with the document, so I never -- I did
6 not go into details of it.

7 Q. Okay. Can you tell me a little bit more
8 about the document?

9 A. It's -- it was a short memo, maybe five,
10 six pages, about this -- which described how this
11 American hedge fund entered Russian securities
12 market and how they violated both Russian and U.S.
13 securities and tax laws. Actually the fund
14 purchased, I mean, billions of dollars in -- at
15 that time there was a company called Gazprom, and
16 so they were buying specifically Gazprom shares
17 through like illegal schemes and taking them -- I
18 mean, the issue was that there are different
19 prices, internal-external prices for securities in
20 Russia at that time. So Gazprom was listed at the
21 external markets through ADR, and Russian
22 companies and individuals could purchase the same
23 shares for much lower price, sometimes like twice
24 as cheap. So there was like real benefit; you
25 make like 200 percent profit right away. And plus

1 it is my understanding they also violated taxes,
2 so they filed in different way, some like 30
3 percent, also savings some tax scheme there. So
4 it was described there, and then kind of in -- I'm
5 not big expert on those things, so I kind of -- I
6 understood the general way how this law was
7 evaded, but I don't -- I'm not sure about the
8 details of it.

9 Q. And do you know why Ms. Veselnitskaya
10 believed that the tax scheme information would be
11 interesting to the Trump campaign?

12 A. Because actually I remember at the end of
13 this memo, it was mentioned that hedge fund is one
14 of the large contributors to DNC.

15 Q. Did the memo also say anything about the
16 Magnitsky Act? Was that also mentioned?

17 A. I don't remember Magnitsky Act was
18 mentioned there at all.

19 Q. So the written document you saw was
20 primarily about the tax evasion in Ziff Brothers?

21 A. It was exclusively about.

22 Q. Exclusively?

23 A. Yes. There's no -- any written record of
24 Magnitsky matter there at all.

25 Q. Was the document that you saw in English

1 or Russian?

2 A. I believe it was in English.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But I don't remember exactly, because
5 I've seen a Russian version of that document as
6 well.

7 Q. Interesting. Do you know where the
8 document was produced?

9 A. I don't know exactly, no.

10 Q. And you don't know who translated it for
11 her then?

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. Okay. You had mentioned that that
14 morning Ms. Veselnitskaya had said that she was
15 going to have a meeting with Don, Jr. Did she
16 mention anyone else that might be in the meeting?

17 A. She didn't mention it in the morning. In
18 the morning she asked me to join her for lunch,
19 and meeting was brought up only at lunch.

20 Q. And who did she tell you to expect to be
21 there?

22 A. She did not mention anyone other than
23 Trump's son.

24 Q. Trump's son, and the individuals that
25 were at lunch with you.

1 A. I assumed they will be there, but she
2 said, "I have a meeting with Trump's son," and
3 that's -- pretty much that was the only
4 description of the participants I received.

5 Q. Did you know that Mr. Manafort would be
6 there?

7 A. I was not aware of that.

8 Q. I think at some point you told the media
9 that you were a long-time acquaintance of Paul
10 Manafort. Can you explain how you know Mr.
11 Manafort?

12 A. I met Mr. Manafort for first time at the
13 meeting at the Trump Tower.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I am not a long-time acquaintance of Mr.
16 Manafort. That's an incorrect statement.

17 Q. All right. Thank you.

18 MR. TREMONTE: If there's a media report to
19 that effect, it would be interesting to know what
20 it is. I'm not aware of one.

21 MS. CLAFLIN: I believe that's the New York
22 Times here.

23 MR. TREMONTE: Unless it's the Times
24 article.

25 [Laughter.]

1 MS. CLAFLIN: I don't need to put it in if
2 you--

3 MR. TREMONTE: May I see it?

4 MS. CLAFLIN: Sure.

5 MR. TREMONTE: Just because your question
6 indicated that -- or suggested that Mr. Akhmetshin
7 was himself quoted --

8 MS. CLAFLIN: I can find the line.

9 MR. TREMONTE: -- as opposed to someone else
10 saying that he said it.

11 MS. CLAFLIN: Yeah, it's just the one line.

12 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't remember -- first
13 of all, I have never met Mr. Manafort before that
14 meeting, and I don't remember ever telling anyone
15 about this. And, you know, for the record, I must
16 say that I am appalled and upset about this New
17 York Times coverage of me personally because there
18 are a lot of factual mistakes there or sometimes
19 like things which are utterly inaccurate.

20 MS. CLAFLIN: Okay. That's fair. And just
21 for the record, I'm not going to enter this as an
22 exhibit, but it's a New York Times article dated
23 August 21, 2017, entitled "Lobbyist at Trump
24 Campaign Meeting Has a Web of Russian
25 Connections." But I don't think there's a need to

1 use it today.

2 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

3 Q. Let's move on then to the actual meeting
4 itself. Can you tell us what happened after you
5 left the lunch?

6 A. After we left the lunch, we -- lunch took
7 place Madison and 62nd, 63rd Street, and so we
8 walked south on Madison until 57th Street. We
9 turned west on 57 and turned south on Fifth
10 Avenue, and we walked into this Trump Tower
11 building, took an elevator, went-- exited at the
12 reception area, and we were met there by this
13 British person, who I later deduced was Mr.
14 Goldstone.

15 Q. And you had not met him before?

16 A. I have never met him before. So we were
17 there at that reception area for a short period of
18 time, and then we were -- reception area opened
19 into this conference room.

20 Q. Did you speak to anyone else in the
21 reception area beyond the people who came to
22 lunch?

23 A. No. We had like small -- actually, on
24 our way there I mentioned to Mr. Samochornov that
25 I am here to attend a theater performance, and I

1 actually invited him and Ms. Veselnitskaya to
2 join, because they were not aware of that, and so
3 I later bought them tickets, and they attended
4 with us. But it was like small talk, you know,
5 nothing of this -- of substance at all.

6 Q. I'm sorry. And then you went into the
7 meeting.

8 A. So we were -- and then after really not
9 for a long time, very short time, we were invited
10 to conference room, which was really large with
11 very impressive views. And soon after, the other
12 participants in meeting joined us.

13 Q. And who were the other participants?

14 A. At that time I recognized only two people
15 there. It was Trump, Jr., and it was this Jared
16 Kushner. These are two people whom I recognized
17 because I've seen them on television.

18 Q. Was Mr. Manafort there as well?

19 A. There was this gentleman who identified
20 himself as Mr. Manafort at some point, yes.

21 Q. But you just didn't recognize him at
22 first?

23 A. I did not recognize him.

24 Q. I see. So just to be entirely clear, who
25 attended the actual meeting at Trump Tower? Was

1 it everyone that you went to lunch with -- Mr.

2 Goldstone, Ms. Veselnitskaya --

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Mr. Kaveladze.

5 A. Correct. Samochornov.

6 Q. Samochornov. Kushner, Manafort, Trump,
7 Jr.

8 A. Correct, yes.

9 Q. Is there anyone else I'm leaving off?

10 A. You know, it's interesting because I've
11 been asked this question before. There might have
12 been someone else. I just don't remember. But
13 these are the people who I cannot remember
14 distinctly. It felt like there were more people
15 there, but it might be that was just an
16 impression.

17 Q. Okay. So you're not sure if there was
18 anyone else?

19 A. I'm not sure.

20 Q. And just to go back very quickly, did you
21 recognize anyone else in the reception area before
22 you walked into the meeting?

23 A. I didn't see anyone I would recognize.
24 There's people, people who are -- I think there
25 was this young lady who was receptionist and maybe

1 one or two people. But I just don't remember
2 anyone distinctly.

3 Q. Okay. And none of them came to join you
4 for the meeting?

5 A. No.

6 MS. SAWYER: What about Mr. Goldstone? Did
7 he also come into the meeting?

8 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes. He was in the
9 meeting, yes.

10 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

11 Q. And who led the meeting?

12 A. Trump, Jr., led the meeting.

13 Q. So how did the meeting start?

14 A. With small talk. It started with small
15 talk. You know, they invited us. There's like
16 little chatter, like, okay, what a beautiful room,
17 what a beautiful view. You know, just -- then Ms.
18 Veselnitskaya, prompted by me, congratulated them
19 on this win in the primaries. And then Mr. Trump,
20 Jr., said, "So I believe you have some information
21 for us." And then Ms. Veselnitskaya presented --
22 made a presentation about Ziff Brothers, and --

23 Q. Can you go into a little more detail on
24 that? What did she present?

25 A. She described the story which I described

1 to you. I don't remember in great details what
2 was said, because I actually thought at some point
3 that I might be -- actually, in the beginning we
4 went around and introduced ourselves.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. That was the --

7 Q. How did you introduce yourself? Do you
8 remember?

9 A. "I am Rinat Akhmetshin. I work for this
10 organization in Washington that is trying to
11 restart adoptions."

12 Q. Do you remember how she introduced
13 herself?

14 A. I think she said she's a legal counsel.

15 Q. And how about Mr. Kaveladze?

16 A. I don't remember, to be honest. It's
17 been a while, so I don't remember exact details of
18 this thing. But when Ms. Veselnitskaya actually -
19 - in the beginning she said that, you know, she
20 came upon the information about Ziff Brothers as a
21 part of her work for her client, and that came up.
22 That's what -- she said that was kind of -- she
23 knows it just because she studied the case.

24 Q. And you said that Mr. Donald Trump, Jr.,
25 was leading the meeting, so to speak.

1 A. He was definitely in charge.

2 Q. And remind me, say again what he said
3 when he started the meeting?

4 A. Again, I cannot tell that verbatim, but
5 something to the effect like, you know, so
6 welcome. After this small talk, he said, "I
7 believe you have some information for us." And
8 Ms. Veselnitskaya said, "Yes, indeed, I do have
9 information," and kind of --

10 Q. Did he give any indication what sort of
11 information he thought they had?

12 A. I don't remember exactly what was said,
13 but, again, so something to the effect of like, "I
14 believe you have some information for us."

15 Q. Just information generally.

16 A. Because I don't remember exact words
17 which were said.

18 Q. Okay. And he didn't give any impression
19 in his opening in terms of what sort of issues he
20 was expecting to have a conversation about?

21 A. No.

22 MS. SAWYER: Was Ms. Veselnitskaya speaking
23 in English or Russian?

24 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Her English is not good to
25 carry conversation, so the -- she spoke through

1 the interpreter, Mr. Samochornov.

2 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

3 Q. How long did she speak for?

4 A. For a while. She tried to kind of wrap
5 it up. I could tell that she's making an effort
6 not to drag it on for long. But I don't remember,
7 like 5, 7 minutes, 10 minutes.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. It wasn't a long presentation, and kind
10 of-- that's what I remember.

11 Q. Was the bulk of her presentation on the
12 Ziff Brothers issue again?

13 A. Yes, Ziff Brothers and Mr. Browder.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Because Mr. Browder actually was someone
16 who run that Ziff Brothers scam.

17 Q. Did she also speak about the Magnitsky
18 Act?

19 A. Not at that point.

20 Q. Okay. Did that come in later? So I
21 guess I've interrupted you. She spoke for a few
22 minutes on the Ziff Brothers thing.

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. What happened next?

25 A. So then -- and then she kind of wrapped

1 it up saying, like, and -- you know, the amount of
2 money she mentioned was about like \$880 million,
3 which is not a small amount of money, coming just
4 from this Russian transaction. And so she said,
5 "And some of this money ended up in" -- they are
6 large contributors to DNC, and, therefore, this is
7 like, you know, that kind of information. I don't
8 remember how she said it, but, "And these are the
9 people who are big contributors to DNC."

10 Q. Were there any questions from the people
11 in the room about that when she made these
12 statements?

13 A. Yes. So Mr. Trump, Jr., said, "So can
14 you show us how does this money go to Hillary?"
15 Like specifically, do you have paperwork? Or just
16 indicate how money goes to Hillary. And she kind
17 of said, "No. I am just a Russian lawyer. I
18 traced this money from Russia through Cyprus to
19 bank" -- I don't remember which bank. It's one of
20 the bigger ones, either Citi or Chase. But she
21 was specific on 53rd Street here in Midtown, you
22 know, just in Manhattan. You know, here, you guys
23 should kind of find out. I don't have that
24 capacity to trace it down, but I could tell you
25 that bad money from -- criminal money came back to

1 New York. And that kind of -- that's where she
2 left it.

3 Q. And your recollection was how did this
4 money get to Hillary or the DNC?

5 A. DNC. She was very specific about DNC.

6 Q. She was specific.

7 A. She was specific.

8 Q. But you said there was a question.

9 A. And Trump, Jr., said, "So can you show me
10 how does this money goes to Hillary?" And she
11 said, "Hell, I don't know." Just pretty much like
12 -- I remember this like moment, like especially --
13 I don't know, like, "You guys find out." You
14 know, "I could only trace it up to here."

15 Q. Were there any other questions about that
16 piece?

17 A. You know, there were no questions. I
18 could tell like he -- Trump, Jr., he just
19 instantly lost interest about these things. And
20 then she probably felt this, and she said, "But,
21 you know, this money, like this adoption stuff,"
22 and then she kind of jumped through this whole
23 adoption presentation.

24 Q. So it sounds like the adoption
25 presentation was not what she led with and may not

1 have been her initial purpose.

2 A. No, it was not. At least -- at least it
3 did not appear to me that way.

4 Q. And what did she say about the adoptions
5 piece?

6 A. And then, you know, I think it could
7 almost like palpable that he was kind of -- lost
8 interest and, you know, just -- you could kind of
9 see it, and, you know -- I mean, what's his name?
10 Kushner left at some point. And then she kind of
11 said, but, you know, because with this thing, you
12 know, just this bad guy, they also -- in order to
13 cover up this crime, they made up this story about
14 this heroic accountant, heroic lawyer, who
15 actually was never a lawyer, this guy. And then
16 he just -- and that kind of triggered just -- it's
17 always just to cover up this thing, and kind of to
18 discredit these people who were pursuing them in
19 that crime. And -- but beginning was just-- you
20 could tell that Trump was interested, and then she
21 said, and then it's like adoption, there's like
22 American families, and she went all of these
23 things, but -- and it was also fairly a long
24 presentation, probably even longer than -- or
25 maybe it felt that way, but you could tell that

1 they were not interested, and they were like
2 looking at their phones or like, you know, just
3 looking the other way, their watch. And so I kind
4 of had to jump in with my 90 seconds and kind of
5 just to stop her. And then I said, yes, this is
6 like it's a good issue, you know, U.S.-Russia
7 relationship, you know, sometimes like there are
8 reasons for that, you know, deterioration by
9 backing out, or sometimes they're based on a lie
10 in which the U.S. Government has never done this
11 thing, and there's a constituency for that, and
12 this would be great, like election campaign, you
13 know, the issue for debates and you could check
14 those facts very easily. If we find out them
15 easily, anyone could check them and form an
16 opinion about this. And that pretty much was the
17 end of the meeting.

18 Q. How long did you speak for?

19 A. Probably 90 seconds.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I tried to be very kind of short and --
22 because I could feel that, you know, they're
23 already like uneasy about this whole meeting.

24 Q. In English, I assume?

25 A. In English, yes.

1 Q. What was the reaction to the presentation
2 about the adoptions?

3 A. Oh, they were not interested at all.

4 Q. Were there any questions?

5 A. I don't think there were questions.

6 Q. So you mentioned that Don, Jr., asked one
7 question earlier.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did anyone else speak? Did Mr. Manafort
10 ever speak?

11 A. I don't remember, to be honest. He might
12 have. Actually, you know, at some point there's
13 like-- I mean, those who spoke said, you know, you
14 should understand we are not in the government, so
15 it's like we're trying to get to the government.
16 Something was said to that effect, I don't
17 remember if it was by Manafort or by Junior.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Manafort was like on his - I believe it's
20 a BlackBerry, so he was just sitting in the chair
21 which kind of goes back. He was almost like lying
22 there, like, you know, on his phone, and it's
23 throughout the whole meeting.

24 Q. Do you recall if Mr. Kushner ever said
25 anything?

1 A. I don't remember him saying anything. He
2 left actually at some point.

3 Q. Was the only question from the Trump
4 campaign the one that you related earlier?

5 A. That's what I remember. They asked us,
6 "Could you show us how it goes to Hillary?" And
7 she said, "I don't know." So that's kind of --
8 that's something which I remember distinctly.

9 Q. So on --

10 A. But there was -- but there might have
11 been-- I mean, I'm sure there was some back-and-
12 forth on some issues, but I don't remember
13 anything like particular.

14 Q. But you don't recall any specifics?

15 A. No.

16 Q. So was there any back-and-forth during
17 the discussion for this --

18 A. There wasn't much -- it's very short
19 meeting, so there's not that kind of --

20 Q. How long did the meeting last?

21 A. I don't know. Maybe 20 minutes.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. But I might be wrong, so...

24 Q. But that's your best estimate?

25 A. Because it was -- that's my assessment,

1 yes.

2 Q. Okay. So you mentioned that the DNC
3 issue came up in terms of the funding.

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. I think you mentioned that Hillary
6 Clinton came up in terms of Mr. Trump, Jr.?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Was she discussed in any other context?

9 A. I don't remember.

10 Q. Okay. Were sanctions discussed, do you
11 recall?

12 A. Not sanctions, per se. I mean, there's
13 like Magnitsky law was -- but, again, not in the
14 capacity of sanctions but in the capacity of, you
15 know, just U.S. Congress not checking the facts of
16 the story, and running with this law without
17 checking the facts.

18 Q. So the adoption issue also included
19 discussion of Magnitsky?

20 A. It did, yes, because he, you know, just
21 had mentioned that adoptions -- you know, Russians
22 retaliated by -- I mean, in my personal view, in a
23 very unfair and cowardly way by stopping these
24 adoptions.

25 Q. Did anyone ask for the campaign's support

1 in reinstituting the adoptions?

2 A. I don't remember. So Ms. Veselnitskaya
3 wanted kind of some support. I think that, you
4 know, at that time there was a hearing which was
5 supposed to happen at that time to examine the
6 facts, which later Mr. Browder's lobbyists were
7 able to quash, and kind of -- and it was turned
8 from the subcommittee in the House Foreign
9 Relations Committee, like the hearing was
10 canceled, and they kind of -- that was the end of
11 the story.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But she -- I mean, she might have asked
14 for some assistance in that, and then again they
15 told like, look, we're just in campaign, we have
16 no capacity of helping.

17 Q. Was there any discussion of helping at a
18 later time?

19 A. I don't remember exact words which were
20 said, but I remember at the end, Donald, Jr.,
21 said, you know, "Come back see us again when we
22 win." Not "if we win," but "when we win." And I
23 kind of thought to myself like, "Yeah, right."
24 But it happened, so -- but that's something, see,
25 he's very kind of positive about, "When we win,

1 come back and see us again." Something to that
2 effect, I guess.

3 Q. Did she say anything to that? Was there
4 a discussion of whether there would be a future
5 meeting?

6 A. I don't remember. It's kind of -- she
7 felt-- she looked kind of disappointed, and whole
8 thing, I don't know what she expected from that.
9 I don't remember any discussion of follow-up.

10 Q. Just to make sure I've gone through all
11 of the possible topics, do you recall if John
12 Podesta was ever discussed?

13 A. I don't remember.

14 Q. How about Hillary Clinton's deleted
15 emails?

16 A. I don't remember any discussion of
17 emails.

18 Q. Russian support of Donald Trump?

19 A. I don't remember that discussed. It was
20 a very short meeting, at least, or like two
21 subjects, I think, which the only two subjects
22 which were discussed, I mean substantive subjects.

23 Q. In one news article, Ms. Veselnitskaya
24 told reporters that Donald Trump, Jr., asked for
25 written evidence illegal proceeds went to Hillary

1 Clinton's campaign. Is that also your
2 recollection? It sounds...

3 A. I don't remember. I know that she had
4 the memo with her, and -- but I think it was
5 established that she has no information about
6 Hillary, so I'll be surprised that -- what was
7 referred -- I don't remember specifically.
8 Actually, the answer is I don't remember
9 specifically that statement.

10 Q. Okay. Were any documents exchanged?

11 A. I am not sure. I know that she brought
12 in those -- that clear plastic folder where she
13 had this-- you know, it's almost like a sleeve
14 where you -- it's very Russian, actually. So --
15 but I don't remember whether she left those
16 documents or not.

17 Q. But you know she walked in the room with
18 them?

19 A. It was in front -- I believe it was in
20 front of her at the desk.

21 Q. Okay. You don't recall that being passed
22 out?

23 A. I have not seen that, no.

24 Q. Okay. But it may have been left there,
25 you're not sure?

1 A. I am not sure. Just, you know, there's
2 like-- it's a rather large room so everyone was
3 like sitting right in this thing, so it was just
4 maybe something -- I am not personally -- I have
5 not seen any documents exchanged.

6 BY MR. PRIVOR:

7 Q. Do you recall very specifically what she
8 did with the documents? You said they were on --
9 were they on the table?

10 A. On the table, yes.

11 Q. In front of her?

12 A. Correct, yes.

13 Q. Did she ever touch them, make a gesture
14 toward the documents?

15 A. It's been a long -- I honestly don't
16 remember.

17 Q. Do you remember if she ever held them up
18 and showed them that she had them?

19 A. No, she did not. Or at least I don't
20 remember that.

21 Q. Did she ever make any reference to the
22 documents in any way that you can recall?

23 A. I don't remember. You know, I kind of
24 heard that story before, so I didn't kind of pay
25 attention, and I was kind of thinking what I would

1 say about -- if my turn comes, so I kind of did
2 not focus on that.

3 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

4 Q. Did you expect that your turn would come?

5 A. I expected maybe just at some point, I
6 might be it, so it was by necessity stop her.

7 Q. So you said you jumped in to kind of cut
8 her off a bit.

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Did she ask you to speak, or you just did
11 that on your own?

12 A. No, she did not ask me to speak.

13 Q. Did anyone else at the meeting speak?
14 Did Mr. Kaveladze say anything to the group?

15 A. I don't remember him speaking.

16 Q. Okay. And Mr. Samochornov only
17 translated?

18 A. Translated, yes.

19 Q. Okay. So as far as you recall, the only
20 people that spoke at the meeting were you, Ms.
21 Veselnitskaya, and Mr. Trump, Jr.?

22 A. Manafort, possibly.

23 Q. Possibly Manafort. Did you take any
24 notes at the meeting at all?

25 A. I did not.

1 Q. Did you see anyone else taking notes?

2 A. I don't remember.

3 BY MS. SAWYER:

4 Q. Do you happen to recall -- were you guys
5 sitting at a table, one table all together?

6 A. Correct, yes.

7 Q. Do you recall where people were seated?

8 A. I do, actually.

9 Q. Can you tell us where?

10 A. Kind of roughly, yes, I remember
11 something specifically. Again, it's really a
12 large conference room. It's almost like
13 basketball court size with beautiful views of
14 Manhattan, and it's a rather large table. So it's
15 pretty far, seated far, but I remember I was
16 sitting -- so it's a table like this. Manafort
17 was sitting at the end, and then on this side was
18 me, Ms. Veselnitskaya, Samochornov, Ike I think
19 was also on our side. And on the opposite side
20 was Kushner, because I remember Kushner was
21 sitting right in front of me because I remember
22 looking at him when he was talking about Ziff
23 Brothers, I had some thoughts about it. And then,
24 you know, Donald, Jr., was like in the middle. So
25 Junior was sitting directly across from Ms.

1 Veselnitskaya. It might have been someone else
2 also there, because it felt -- but, again, I'm not
3 sure. So there might have been -- it felt like
4 there were more people sitting on opposite side.

5 Q. Do you recall where Mr. Goldstone was
6 sitting?

7 A. He might have sat at this like very end,
8 on the opposite side, or maybe on our side.

9 Q. And you feel like there were additional
10 people beyond those that you've just described?

11 A. I'm not sure, again. But for some reason
12 it felt like there were more people there on the
13 opposite side. It wasn't just Kushner and Trump.
14 So there's some other like American faces.

15 Q. And you said you --

16 MS. CLAFLIN: And you don't recall anything
17 about them?

18 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't remember anything
19 about them.

20 BY MS. SAWYER:

21 Q. And you said you were watching Mr.
22 Kushner--

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. -- while Ms. Veselnitskaya was speaking.
25 Did he have a reaction?

1 A. No. He actually kind of -- he didn't
2 have reaction, but I was thinking to myself, you
3 know, she talks about the Ziff Brothers and
4 they're billionaire kids, and he's a billionaire
5 kid, Jewish billionaire kid himself. I thought
6 that maybe they seem like they are buddies, and I
7 was just thinking should she like say all these
8 things without knowing exact context. So that's --
9 that I remember because Kushner was seated there,
10 and because I was asked before when did he leave,
11 but I remember he was there when -- at least for
12 part of Ziff Brothers discussion because I looked
13 at him and I thought that there are not that many
14 billionaires in New York of that age. So he
15 probably knows them well.

16 Q. And do you recall at all whether he
17 stayed for that entire part of her presentation
18 that had to do with the Ziff Brothers and the tax
19 fraud?

20 A. I don't remember exact time of his
21 departure, but I remember he was at least for part
22 of it because that's what was in my head when I
23 looked at him when she was discussing Ziff
24 Brothers and all this dropped.

25 Q. And did he say anything when he got up

1 and left?

2 A. I don't think he did. I don't remember.

3 Q. And did anyone else leave with him?

4 A. I don't remember. Sorry.

5 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

6 Q. Everyone else stayed for the whole

7 meeting, as far as you recall?

8 A. I think so, yes.

9 Q. And started at the same time? Did anyone
10 come late?

11 A. I don't remember. I don't think -- I
12 don't think so. I think they started at same
13 time, and Kushner left for sure at some point, but
14 I don't remember anyone else leaving.

15 Q. Okay. How did the meeting end?

16 A. The end, you know, I think Trump, Jr.,
17 said, look, we're not in power, you know, just
18 running to be in power, and -- but when we win --
19 I remember distinctly. It was not "if we win."
20 "When we win, come back and see us again." That
21 was kind of the thing.

22 Q. Okay. And then you all left together?

23 A. We were like leaving the room, and it's a
24 large room, so we kind of walked -- I was walking
25 next to Manafort, and they were walking -- like

1 Ms. Veselnitskaya walking, and at the end they
2 shook hands and kind of went to the elevator.

3 Q. Okay. Did you run into anyone else on
4 your way to the elevator?

5 A. We have, yes.

6 Q. Okay. Who was that?

7 A. Ivanka Trump.

8 Q. Okay. Did you speak to her?

9 A. For like 3 seconds. We were just --
10 actually, we run into her right at the elevator,
11 so we were waiting for the elevator to come, and
12 she just came like probably few seconds later, and
13 we kind of had this little chat. I don't even
14 think that we introduced ourselves. We kind of
15 like had this little exchange, like small talk,
16 and she got into elevator and went up, and we went
17 down.

18 Q. Anyone else?

19 A. No one I could remember.

20 Q. Okay. And where did you go when you got
21 off the elevator?

22 A. We exited into lobby of Trump building,
23 and we went -- there's like coffee shop like
24 Starbucks or something or other, like coffee shop
25 down there, and we went there just -- I think I

1 had tea, and they got coffee, and I left very
2 quickly. And then I actually -- Mr. Kaveladze
3 gave me his business card, so that's how I kind of
4 figure out who he is. I wasn't sure who he was
5 until that point.

6 Q. Did you have any discussion with any --
7 with Ms. Veselnitskaya, Mr. Kaveladze, or Mr.
8 Goldstone about the meeting?

9 A. I don't think Mr. Goldstone with us --
10 was with us.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It was the same thing, four people --
13 Kaveladze, Ms. Veselnitskaya, I, and translator.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. We were -- and I did not stay for long
16 time, so I had this little chat with Ike, you
17 know, and that's pretty much it. And I left, and
18 then later that evening I kind of -- I told him to
19 come -- I'll get you tickets. The tickets came
20 in. We watched play, and then we just parted
21 ways.

22 Q. Did you speak to any of the meeting
23 participants after the meeting about what had
24 happened at the meeting?

25 A. I saw -- not that day. I saw Ms.

1 Veselnitskaya a couple days later in Washington,
2 and kind of, you know, it was -- it's really
3 nothing happened, and it's kind of almost like --
4 I feel like she was a little embarrassed almost to
5 talk about these things. But --

6 Q. Why do you think she was embarrassed? I
7 think before, you also testified that she seemed
8 disappointed.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Why do you think she felt that way?

11 A. You know, I think that, you know, she --
12 she's a hardworking woman. Actually, I personally
13 do like her very much. I think she's too intense
14 sometimes at the time, but she's -- she's a smart
15 person and, you know, to be a woman prosecutor is
16 not easy in Russia. And I know that, for example,
17 later on I have explained something to me, so, I
18 mean, for her to kind of be in a position that
19 she's hardworking, she's single mother, she has
20 four kids, she had -- [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] And I met her children once, good kids.
23 So she really kind of has a lot on her plate, and
24 I think that -- but knowledge of American
25 political system is not her strength, and I think

1 that, you know, just she thought that we'll come
2 there and, you know, just will tell the truth
3 about this, like Browder being a liar, and now,
4 you know, just all of a sudden, he's, aha, you
5 know, just -- and, look, it doesn't happen. I
6 mean, I tried to tell these things, and then no
7 one wants to hear this. So I think she had higher
8 expectations from the meeting.

9 Q. What do you think she expected from the
10 meeting? What kind of --

11 A. I'm not sure.

12 Q. -- response do you think she expected?

13 A. I'm not sure. But it's -- she clearly
14 was not kind of happy with this outcome. So we
15 really didn't even talk until like much later
16 about this.

17 Q. So she may have expected them to be more
18 interested in the Ziff Brothers issue than they
19 appeared to be?

20 A. Correct, yes.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. So just they were -- really had no
23 interest in this, or any of it.

24 Q. And you said you left the coffee shop
25 early. Did you talk to anyone else before you left

1 about their reactions?

2 A No. It was like, you know, just -- I
3 really stayed there for a very short time because
4 I had to be somewhere, and I wasn't even planning
5 on being there. So I was meeting someone later
6 that evening for a drink before the theater. And
7 then later I had, you know, Mr. Lieberman.

8 Q. How long did you stay at the coffee shop?

9 A. Maybe 5 minutes. You know, it's -- by
10 the time you get something, you pay, you kind of -
11 - I have actually -- I don't -- if I remember
12 correctly, the only person I talked to was this
13 Ike Kaveladze. So I spoke a little bit about him,
14 and things like, look, if you need any help, you
15 know, kind of -- I'm always looking for new
16 clients, so if that's really -- I mean, this -- I
17 don't remember exact interaction, but something to
18 that effect, and he gave me his card, I looked at
19 it, and I kind of realized who he was.

20 Q. Did you and Ike speak at all about the
21 meeting?

22 A. Not at all. Not that I could remember.

23 Q. Okay. Did you speak with anyone else
24 besides the meeting participants after the meeting
25 about the meeting?

1 A. In what period of time?

2 Q. Shortly after it happened. Did you tell
3 friends or colleagues?

4 A. I told a couple of my friends about it,
5 journalist friends, because I thought it was
6 amusing. That's the only like people -- I might
7 have mentioned to -- I did mention to my wife.
8 She was amused, too.

9 Q. Was there any follow-up at all from the
10 meeting with Ms. Veselnitskaya or any of the
11 others?

12 A. Not that I'm aware. Not from me. I'm
13 not aware of any other.

14 Q. But you have had further contact with
15 her?

16 A. Ms. Veselnitskaya, yes.

17 Q. Was it all in the context of the Prevezon
18 case, or were there other --

19 A. Prevezon case was on hold at that time
20 because there were the Second Circuit proceedings,
21 and so it didn't go far. But I was in contact
22 with her because I was trying to propose her as a
23 witness at that hearing which we were trying to
24 organize. And also we did the screening of this
25 film, this Magnitsky film here in Washington,

1 D.C., so she was in town for that. So we were
2 kind of busy. And, actually, the screening was
3 very dramatic and so there's a lot of stuff later
4 on came in, and hearing was also dramatic, you
5 know, just this was canceled like 2 days before or
6 day before, so that they changed the hearing.
7 They took it to the full committee. So there was
8 a lot of drama around that.

9 Q. Okay. And any more follow-up on this
10 meeting with her then?

11 A. No.

12 Q. No.

13 BY MS. SAWYER:

14 Q. Just could I briefly ask, so at the play
15 that night, you attended, Mr. Baumgartner --

16 A. Not Mr. Baumgartner. Mr. Lieberman.

17 Q. Mr. Lieberman, Ms. Veselnitskaya, and --

18 A. Mr. Samochornov, yes.

19 Q. Did the meeting come up at all at the
20 play?

21 A. Not at all, no. It was a very beautiful
22 play, and it kind of -- I had a few drinks before
23 in the intermission, so it is a very nice -- we
24 talked about play and kind of things. We did not
25 discuss meeting at all, actually. Not that I

1 could remember.

2 BY MR. PRIVOR:

3 Q. You mentioned that you had dinner
4 beforehand with Mr. Lieberman. Did the subject of
5 the meeting ever come up?

6 A. I didn't mention to him.

7 Q. Had you ever met any -- had you ever met
8 the Trumps before June 9th?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Had you ever met anyone from the campaign
11 before June 9th?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Was it a significant event to you to meet
14 Donald Trump, Jr.?

15 A. No, I was amused, and I'm not a fan of
16 the whole family, so -- I was kind of curious and
17 amused mostly.

18 Q. And having been amused, it just never
19 came up? You never thought to say something to
20 Ed, "This is what I've been doing all day"? I
21 mean, it seems like it would be a fairly
22 significant event that you met Donald Trump, Jr.
23 No?

24 A. You know, I try to be discreet so just,
25 you know -- and I understand it wasn't my meeting.

1 It was her meeting. I was invited there, and,
2 you know, you don't go and run your mouth about
3 it.

4 Q. Did Ed at dinner ever ask what you had
5 done that day?

6 A. No. He was kind of in a somber mood
7 because, you know, he -- I mean, when his wife
8 died, it was-- there are only two of them. They
9 have no kids, and they kind of -- and she was very
10 involved -- she was very close confidante of
11 Hillary Clinton, and so -- and for him it was like
12 kind of somber moment to go and then to talk about
13 the scholarship and her memory. So I think he was
14 a little bit down. He actually brought his -- he
15 has like a niece, his cousin's daughter. She's a
16 girl. [REDACTED], is very, very
17 talented mathematician, and very nice girl. She
18 actually joined us for dinner, and he bought her a
19 ticket as well. So she's young girl. She just
20 joined us for dinner.

21 Q. I'm sorry. I'm not sure if I understood
22 you. Did you say that Ed Lieberman was a close
23 confidant of Hillary Clinton?

24 A. His wife was close confidante of Hillary
25 Clinton.

1 Q. And do you know if Ed Lieberman had a
2 relationship with Hillary Clinton or just his
3 wife?

4 A. Oh, he knew her well, I'm sure.

5 Q. And did you know that before June 9th
6 that he was a confidant of Hillary Clinton, or his
7 wife?

8 A. Yeah, I knew all the time. I mean, from
9 the first time I met him.

10 Q. And so knowing that, it never occurred to
11 you to say, "Hey, I just had a meeting where
12 Hillary Clinton's name came up"?

13 A. Again, I try to be discreet.

14 Q. You also said that you met somebody for
15 drinks beforehand. Who was that?

16 A. I don't even remember now.

17 Q. Was it a friend of yours?

18 A. A friend of mine, yeah.

19 Q. So you have no idea who it was?

20 A. I don't remember. I don't even remember
21 whether -- honestly, it's been such a long time
22 ago. It's not uncommon for me to meet people or...

23 Q. Can I take you back for just a moment?
24 When you were leaving the meeting, you mentioned
25 you saw Ivanka Trump in the reception area?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Did she seem like she was there because
3 of the meeting or some other reason?

4 A. No, at least I had no impression that she
5 was there for a meeting at all. I mean, she was
6 kind of -- she came in from somewhere else, like
7 took elevator up, we took elevator down. So it
8 was literally like 3-second interaction. She's
9 very beautiful young lady and kind of -- it was
10 really like 3-second thing by the time.

11 Q. Did you have any sense that she knew
12 there was a meeting taking place?

13 A. At least it did not strike me that way.

14 Q. Did you see whether anyone -- you said
15 you had a very brief interaction with her, but did
16 you see if anyone else had any interaction with
17 her?

18 A. No. She was on her own, actually, so she
19 kind of -- she walked from somewhere, like it's
20 big office there, just very -- there are no walls.
21 So she kind of -- we didn't even see her until
22 she got to the elevator. But she came from
23 somewhere, the elevator on her own, and she rode
24 elevator up.

25 Q. And so did you see her speak to anyone

1 else or no?

2 A. The only -- 3 seconds is not a very long
3 period of time, so she was there, and we kind of
4 said hi, and then she said like -- I don't
5 remember what she said exactly. It's very like
6 short, meaningless greeting, I would say.

7 Q. And did you immediately get on the
8 elevator, or was there some more --

9 A. It's almost like simultaneously hers came
10 up and maybe ours, maybe a couple seconds later
11 came down. And so we took the elevator down. I
12 don't see-- at least in my understanding or
13 feeling, but I don't think she had anything to do
14 with that meeting or was even aware of that or who
15 we were. Actually, I don't think she even knew
16 who we were. I'm sure there are a lot of people
17 come through that office.

18 BY MS. SAWYER:

19 Q. Did Ms. Veselnitskaya ever mention to you
20 or request that you keep the meeting confidential?

21 A. Not explicitly, no.

22 Q. Did you surmise or infer that from her in
23 any way? You said "not explicitly." Did she
24 indicate it in any other way?

25 A. I don't remember. You know, in general,

1 in general I kind of try not to discuss other
2 people's affair with some who are not those
3 people. And I think that by that time we knew
4 each other well enough to expect this from each
5 other.

6 Q. Did she ever raise with you the issue of
7 the nondisclosure agreement?

8 A. I do not remember. When, you know, my
9 counsel and I were kind of discussing this issue,
10 I really tried to dig deep and search my notes and
11 my documents. I have never seen anything other
12 than this court-ordered nondisclosure form, which
13 I signed.

14 BY MR. PRIVOR:

15 Q. I'm sorry to circle back again. You
16 mentioned also that you raised this issue or
17 discussed the meeting, your reaction that it was
18 amusing, with some journalist friends?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Who was that, do you recall?

21 A. Two of my close friends, yeah, long-time
22 friends.

23 Q. Do you recall who they were?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Who were they?

1 A. One is journalist for -- former
2 department editor for Associated Press, is a very
3 old friend of mine. And another one is another
4 old friend of mine who has been in many other
5 press outlets.

6 Q. And do you recall what you said to them?

7 A. I said like, you know, I -- you know,
8 guess what? Something funny. I was in a meeting.
9 It was like such bullshit, and that kind of --
10 but -- and they said, "Can we write about this?"
11 Of course, journalists are always interested. I
12 said, "Absolutely not. It's not my secret, and
13 you cannot write about this."

14 Q. And you thought it was okay to tell the
15 journalists about something you found amusing, but
16 you didn't think to discuss this with Ed
17 Lieberman? You thought you needed to maintain that
18 discretion?

19 A. At some point I might have mentioned it
20 to him, but not like right away.

21 Q. Not at the dinner?

22 A. Not at dinner, not even like -- I do not
23 remember. At some point I might have -- he also
24 serves as a legal counsel to me so -- on a number
25 of issues. So, you know, I'm almost certain at

1 some point he knew about it, but not immediately.

2 Q. Do you recall when you might have brought
3 it up to him?

4 A. I don't remember.

5 BY MS. SAWYER:

6 Q. Do you think it was before the news broke
7 in the press about the meeting?

8 A. It's been over a year. Yes, before the
9 news broke.

10 Q. So sometime between June 9, 2016, and
11 July of 2017?

12 A. Correct, yes.

13 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

14 Q. Can you go back a minute? Were you under
15 the impression that the meeting was Ms.
16 Veselnitskaya's own idea, or was she working with
17 others on her advocacy?

18 A. I don't know. I cannot say that.

19 Q. So you have no --

20 A. I was surprised that she -- I was
21 honestly surprised that she got a meeting.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Because she's so out of like American
24 political narrative. I found that surprising.

25 Q. Interesting. So as far as -- you were

1 not aware of her working for anyone else, though,
2 with her work on the Ziff Brothers?

3 A. No. I know that --

4 Q. Do you know -- sorry. Go ahead.

5 A. No, I think she -- I know that she worked
6 very hard and she was very proud of this, finding
7 these kind of facts and -- because they were not -
8 - they're not known, at least in Russia at that
9 time. So it was her own legal research which she
10 conducted for a long time, as she told me, to kind
11 of find these facts. And I know that she later
12 reported them to law enforcement in Russia, and I
13 don't -- she definitely was the reason why she did
14 it, and it was very good reason and it was
15 important.

16 Q. So what is the reason that she did it?
17 Do you know why she was interested in that issue?

18 A. Because the person who kind of
19 perpetrated that, was mastermind, the person who
20 run was not Ziff Brothers, were people who gave
21 money to Bill Browder, and Bill Browder kind of --
22 I mean, I'm sure he's like he's from New York,
23 they know these intricacies of this Russian
24 offshore company, hiring these mentally disabled
25 people to claim 35 percent tax cut on all those

1 things. I'm sure they had no idea what -- how the
2 money works, but they made a lot of money there.

3 So I'm sure they were happy. But she wants to
4 kind of expose Mr. Browder I guess in this thing.

5 Q. Okay. So you understand that her
6 interest stems entirely from Browder?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Okay. And as far as you know, she wasn't
9 working on that with Prevezon?

10 A. Prevezon - Prevezon case was brought to
11 Southern District by Mr. Browder. He was the sole
12 source of it. He tried to sell this case to the
13 FBI, to the Treasury, to many other things. At
14 the end of the day, the case was picked up by
15 Homeland Security Office in New York, and that I
16 find ironic, and I'm sure some of you, certain
17 litigations. The first civil forfeiture complaint
18 contained this long chunks of website, Browder's
19 website. You know, they pretty much plagiarized
20 chunks of text and graphs, schemes, everything was
21 just copy-pasted from that site. And then later
22 in the film, I saw the deposition of the Homeland
23 Security agent, and the lawyers for Prevezon
24 asking like, "Have you checked this?" He said,
25 "No. It wasn't necessary." I find those kind of

1 interesting. So -- and, clearly, it was -- the
2 case would not have been brought up, and at the
3 end, Southern -- person in Southern District
4 couldn't kind of present that case to the court,
5 and they offered settlement to Prevezon.

6 MR. TREMONTE: Excuse me just for a second.

7 [Counsel confers with witness.]

8 MR. AKHMETSHIN: And, you know, I was also,
9 you know, as a part of that, disclosing specifics,
10 but one of the work I've done for BakerHostetler
11 in that case was to prepare for deposition,
12 Browder deposition, so that's everything, what how
13 I knew a lot of these facts.

14 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

15 Q. Do you know if Prevezon had asked her to
16 have this meeting?

17 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure at all how
18 the meeting came together. I have no knowledge.

19 Q. You don't know if the Katsyvs asked her
20 to have this meeting?

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. Or the Agalarovs?

23 A. I don't know.

24 MS. CLAFLIN: Okay.

25 BY MS. SAWYER:

1 Q. Just one quick question. You said she
2 reported her findings on the Ziff Brothers to law
3 enforcement in Russia. Do you know specifically
4 who she took the complaint to?

5 A. I don't know, but she at some point
6 mentioned to me that Russia sent several MLATs to
7 U.S. Justice Department in connection with this
8 matter.

9 Q. Do you know if she met with Yuri Chaika
10 about her complaint?

11 A. I'm not sure. I don't know.

12 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

13 Q. Did you have any further contact with Mr.
14 Goldstone after the meeting?

15 A. No. I don't even think I had
16 conversation with him.

17 Q. At the meeting?

18 A. At the meeting or before the meeting.
19 There was that little small talk between him and
20 Ike. They seemed to know each other before. But
21 I may have shaken hands with him.

22 Q. How about Mr. Samochornov?

23 A. Me?

24 Q. Did you speak to him after the meeting at
25 all?

1 A. I did, yes.

2 Q. In what context?

3 A. He was involved in this HRAGI work, so I
4 don't remember discussing meeting per se. We
5 might have said like what a bullshit it was. But
6 other than that, I don't think -- he's a very nice
7 person. I like him very much, and he's a great
8 kind of conversationalist, and, you know, we
9 talked with him with other things.

10 Q. Did you have any further contact with
11 anyone from the Trump campaign, like Don, Jr., Mr.
12 Manafort, Mr. Kushner?

13 A. No, I did not.

14 MS. CLAFLIN: We're at a decent stopping
15 point if you guys want to break now.

16 MR. FOSTER: Okay.

17 MS. CLAFLIN: Off the record at 11:52.

18 [Recess at 11:52 a.m. to 12:03 p.m.]

19 MR. DAVIS: Okay. We'll go back on the
20 record. It's 12:03.

21 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY
22 BY MR. DAVIS:

23 Q. Unfortunately, as a byproduct of the
24 format of the interview, I'll be going over some
25 areas my colleagues already addressed a little bit

1 and other times be jumping around when they've
2 already asked questions I was going to.

3 So turning to the meeting itself on June
4 9, 2016, during that meeting did anyone state that
5 the Russian Government was engaged in an effort to
6 support Donald Trump's Presidential campaign?

7 A. No, I don't remember any discussion to
8 that effect.

9 Q. Did anyone state that the Russian
10 Government opposed Hillary Clinton's campaign?

11 A. I don't remember any of this.

12 Q. Did anyone at the meeting offer to
13 release hacked emails to aid the Trump campaign?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did anyone offer to manufacture and
16 distribute fake news to aid the Trump campaign?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did anyone offer to hack State voter
19 registration systems to obtain voter data to aid
20 the Trump campaign?

21 A. No.

22 Q. To the best of your recollection, was
23 there any discussion of anything that might
24 reasonably be considered collusion between the
25 Trump campaign and the Russian Government?

1 A. Not to way I understand it, no.

2 Q. You mentioned the manner in which
3 everyone was introduced. I have a few questions
4 to ask about that for clarification. How did you
5 say Ms. Veselnitskaya introduced herself?

6 A. I think she's a lawyer, introduced
7 herself as a lawyer. I don't remember exactly,
8 sir, but --

9 Q. Did she clarify who her client was when
10 she introduced herself as a lawyer? Or did she --

11 A. She mentioned that she got this
12 information about Ziff Brothers through her work
13 for her client, and she might have mentioned the
14 client.

15 Q. Would that client have been Prevezon or
16 Mr. Katsyv?

17 A. I don't remember exactly.

18 Q. Okay. Did she or any other attendee
19 claim that she was working for or speaking on
20 behalf of the Russian Government?

21 A. Not at all. I don't even barely remember
22 it.

23 Q. And did it appear to you that anyone else
24 in the meeting from the Trump campaign had ever
25 previously interacted with Ms. Veselnitskaya? Did

1 anyone seem like they knew her already?

2 A. No, I don't think so.

3 Q. I believe you said that you introduced
4 yourself as associated with HRAGI. Is that
5 correct?

6 A. Correct, yes.

7 Q. Okay. And did you or any other attendee
8 claim that you were working for or speaking on
9 behalf of the Russian Government?

10 A. Oh, definitely not.

11 Q. Did you say you don't recall if or how
12 Mr. Kaveladze was introduced?

13 A. I don't remember, no.

14 Q. What about Mr. Goldstone? Was he
15 introduced?

16 A. I don't remember. He seems to be
17 familiar with Trump's people, so it was certain
18 sense of familiarity, but I don't remember exactly
19 how he introduced himself.

20 Q. And was Mr. Samochornov introduced?

21 A. I don't remember. He must have been.

22 Q. At the meeting did anyone ask that Donald
23 Trump, Sr., take any action regarding the
24 Magnitsky Act or the Global Magnitsky Act if
25 elected?

1 A. No, I don't remember that.

2 Q. Did anyone mention the Justice
3 Department's lawsuit against Prevezon Holdings?

4 A. I don't remember that.

5 Q. Did anyone ask that Trump, Sr., take any
6 action regarding the Justice Department's lawsuit
7 against Prevezon Holdings if elected, such as
8 firing Preet Bharara, dropping the case, or
9 settling?

10 A. No, I don't -- I would remember that.

11 No.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Definitely not.

14 Q. What, if anything, did you or Ms.
15 Veselnitskaya offer to the Trump campaign?

16 A. Nothing but advice.

17 Q. And that was just the information you've
18 already gone over with my colleagues; is that
19 correct?

20 A. That is correct, yes.

21 Q. Okay. What, if anything, did you or Ms.
22 Veselnitskaya ask of the Trump campaign?

23 A. I did not ask anything. Ms.
24 Veselnitskaya-- I don't remember her asking
25 anything explicitly or specifically.

1 Q. Okay. Did Mr. Kaveladze speak during the
2 meeting?

3 A. I don't remember him speaking.

4 Q. Did Mr. Goldstone?

5 A. Maybe in the beginning, like in a small
6 talk, but nothing of substance I could remember.

7 MR. DAVIS: Okay. I'd like you to take a
8 look at an email chain. This is Bates-numbered
9 DJTJR-00454 to 56, which we'll label Exhibit 8.
10 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 8 was marked for
11 identification.]

12 BY MR. DAVIS:

13 Q. This is an email chain from Mr. Goldstone
14 to Dan Scavino, copying Donald Trump, Jr., Rhona
15 Graff, and Konstatin Sidorkov. You are not on
16 this email chain.

17 A. Okay.

18 MR. TREMONTE: Give us a second.

19 MR. DAVIS: Sure.

20 [Pause.]

21 BY MR. DAVIS:

22 Q. So this email was sent on June 29, 2016.
23 It states in part -- again, this is Mr.
24 Goldstone. It states, "Dan, I am following up an
25 email awhile back of something I had mentioned to

1 Don and Paul Manafort during a meeting recently.
2 There are believed to be around 2 million Russian
3 American voters living in the USA and more than
4 1.6 million of these use the Russian Facebook site
5 VKontakte, VK, as their preferred social media
6 outlet. As I mentioned to you guys through Emin
7 and my contact at VK, they want to create a Vote
8 Trump 2016 promotion aired directly at these
9 users, people who will be voting in November. At
10 the time Paul had said he would welcome it, and so
11 I had the VK folks mock up a basic sample page,
12 which I am resending for your approval now."

13 To the best of your recollection, did Mr.
14 Goldstone discuss a VK proposal during the June 9,
15 2016, meeting?

16 A. No. I would have remembered that.

17 Q. Okay. Am I correct that you said you had
18 seen the document that was at the lunch and taken
19 to the meeting? You had seen that document
20 beforehand; is that correct?

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. In what context had you seen it
23 previously?

24 A. At some point she mentioned to me about
25 the Ziff Brothers and her research and those

1 things. She said like -- she really worked on
2 developing this. She was very proud of -- and I
3 also think it's quite impressive. She was able to
4 find like \$880 million like in profits moved out
5 of Russia.

6 Q. And was this document prepared as part of
7 her role in representing Prevezon?

8 A. I would believe so. I'm not certain in
9 which capacity she developed it, but I would
10 assume it was in connection with that litigation.

11 Q. And do you know how she had used this
12 document prior to the June 9th meeting?

13 A. I don't know.

14 Q. Had she shared it with anyone else or
15 presented it to anyone?

16 A. She mentioned to me that she reported her
17 findings to Russian law enforcement.

18 MR. FOSTER: So to the best of your
19 recollection, when did she first provide you a
20 copy of the document?

21 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't think I had a copy
22 of the document, but she mentioned to me -- I saw
23 the Russian version of the document maybe sometime
24 in April, because I saw it -- might be even in
25 Brussels. Or maybe I got a copy in Brussels or

1 something. I don't remember, sir.

2 BY MR. DAVIS:

3 Q. Do you know if you have a copy of it now?

4 A. I do have a Russian copy of it.

5 Q. Would you be willing to provide a copy of
6 that document?

7 MR. TREMONTE: We'll take the request under
8 advisement, and we can discuss it when we're done
9 with the interview.

10 BY MR. DAVIS:

11 Q. Was the information in that document
12 relevant to HRAGI's work?

13 A. I wouldn't say so, no. It's relevant
14 just to show that the person who behind this
15 Magnitsky law is a con man and a fraudster and
16 criminal. But other than that, no.

17 Q. So relevant to Bill Browder's --

18 A. Relevant to the picture, correct.

19 Q. When you spoke -- to make sure I have it
20 right, you spoke about the adoption issue and
21 HRAGI's efforts in general; is that correct?

22 A. Correct, yes.

23 Q. Was the presentation or speech you gave
24 to the Trump campaign similar to the HRAGI pitch
25 that you made to Members of Congress in the

1 congressional setting?

2 A. It was slightly different because I
3 suggested that this could become a campaign issue
4 and, you know, something which could be brought up
5 during the debates and other things. But the
6 stuff which I asked for from the Members of
7 Congress is that just simply to investigate the
8 facts. And I provided these points which showed
9 that original facts are fabricated or incorrect.

10 Q. So after the June 9th meeting, when did
11 you return to Washington, D.C.?

12 A. Next morning. Or next afternoon
13 probably.

14 Q. Okay. And did you travel to Washington,
15 D.C., with Ms. Veselnitskaya?

16 A. I'm not sure.

17 Q. Did you travel to Washington, D.C., with
18 Mr. Lieberman?

19 A. I'm not sure. I found my ticket coming
20 in and coming out, but I don't -- I purchased it
21 by myself, but I don't remember other people.

22 Q. What interaction did you have with Ms.
23 Veselnitskaya during the rest of her trip to the
24 United States in June of 2016?

25 A. I had dinner with her, but could be later

1 in Washington. And then we tried to -- I think at
2 the same kind of -- part of the same visit, I
3 brought her to the hearings, and I tried to kind
4 of -- brought her to the hearings, and she also
5 attended screening of the film at the Newseum.

6 Q. Did you accompany her on any other
7 activities during that time?

8 A. Not that I remember.

9 Q. You mentioned attending a dinner with
10 her. Do you recall the date of that dinner?

11 A. I believe next day or day after.

12 Q. So June 10th or 11th? Is that --

13 A. Something like that, yes.

14 Q. Who else attended that dinner?

15 A. The rest of the legal team from
16 BakerHostetler.

17 Q. Did that include Mark Cymrot?

18 A. Correct, yes, and his spouse. They're
19 more like a family there.

20 Q. What about Glenn Simpson? Was he there?

21 A. He was, yes.

22 Q. What was the purpose of the dinner, if
23 any?

24 A. Just social thing. Mr. Cymrot's wife is
25 Peruvian. Actually, there was someone there who

1 had nothing to do with this affair. It's a
2 neighbor of mine. She lives across the street
3 from me, and she's Peruvian writer, and she used
4 to be a book editor for Washington Post.

5 MR. FOSTER: You said Mr. Simpson was there.
6 Was there anyone else there from Fusion GPS?

7 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't remember. His wife
8 was there. I was actually seated next to his
9 wife.

10 BY MR. DAVIS:

11 Q. Do you recall if Ed Baumgartner was
12 there?

13 A. I don't remember.

14 Q. What about Ed Lieberman?

15 A. Ed Lieberman must have been there, yes.

16 Q. To the best of your recollection, did Ms.
17 Veselnitskaya and Mr. Simpson interact at that
18 dinner?

19 A. It was rather large dinner, so just, you
20 know, it was a nice -- you know, there's several
21 near Macomb Street, it's loud, and so we -- I
22 remember we were waiting for a table for a long
23 time, just took so many people, there was like
24 some side room there. So it's been a while. And
25 there was this like in a big dinner, loud place, I

1 remember I was seated next to Glenn's wife, whom
2 I've known for years, so we were chatting with
3 her.

4 Q. Was Mr. Samochornov at that dinner?

5 A. I don't remember him there.

6 Q. Do you know if she had any translator
7 there with her?

8 A. I don't remember.

9 BY MR. FOSTER:

10 Q. You said you had known Glenn Simpson's
11 wife for years. How do you know her?

12 A. She used to be bureau chief for Wall
13 Street Journal in Brussels.

14 Q. And so how did you --

15 A. And I've done many like work -- also not
16 just in U.S. Congress lobbying work, but I've done
17 lobbying work in European Parliament in EU, and I
18 met her in Brussels, and actually I met her first,
19 and I met Simpson through her.

20 Q. And so what was the nature of the -- what
21 led you to meet her?

22 A. For example, I would organize hearings in
23 European Parliament, and I want someone to cover
24 those hearings and explain why it's important for
25 them to write about it and, you know, like always

1 you kind of try to get coverage, and --

2 Q. So you were pitching her stories?

3 A. Pitching, correct, yes. That is correct,
4 yes.

5 MR. FOSTER: Okay.

6 BY MR. DAVIS:

7 Q. To the best of your knowledge, did you or
8 Ms. Veselnitskaya mention the Trump Tower meeting
9 during this dinner?

10 A. I don't remember. I was not seated next
11 to her. She was like somewhere else, and so I
12 don't remember -- or I don't know what she
13 discussed with people.

14 Q. And did you discuss it?

15 A. I did not discuss it at that dinner.

16 Q. Can you walk us through your activities
17 with Ms. Veselnitskaya on June 12th? Do you
18 recall what you did on that day?

19 A. I don't remember.

20 Q. Okay. And did you attend the June 13,
21 2016, screening of Mr. Nekrasov's film at the
22 Newseum?

23 A. I did, yes.

24 Q. And what role, if any, did you have
25 relating to that?

1 A. I helped to organize it, you know, just
2 secure-- there was a lot of drama about that
3 screening, and Mr. Browder tried to sabotage it
4 and tried to kind of close it down. So there was
5 a lot of -- it was a very tense moment, and we
6 also tried to get a lot of publicity about it, so
7 we got this New York Times article. There was a
8 lot of kind of attention to that screening, so I
9 also worked with -- where this person who was
10 helping us with the arrangements, but I also
11 worked directly with the Newseum staff, but when
12 we needed to -- there were threats, so we needed
13 to kind of pay for like metal detector, for police
14 presence. So it was rather dramatic. And I also
15 was very busy with just inviting people, creating
16 a list, because we didn't want the Browder people
17 to sabotage it, which ended up happening, and I
18 tried to secure a person who would present it. So
19 there were a lot of -- it was very busy time for
20 me.

21 Q. Who was the person who was assisting you
22 in organizing that screening?

23 A. We engaged public relations company to
24 help us. It's called Potomac Square. And the
25 person who helped us, Chris Cooper.

1 Q. And then am I correct you stated you
2 attended a congressional hearing with Ms.
3 Veselnitskaya on June 14th; is that correct?

4 A. I believe it was next day, yes.

5 Q. Okay. Did you attend a dinner with Ms.
6 Veselnitskaya, Congressman Rohrabacher, and others
7 at the Capitol Hill Club on June 14, 2016?

8 A. I did. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Who attended that dinner?

10 A. There were people from Congressman
11 Rohrabacher's staff. There was a guy -- or
12 someone actually was -- I remember that event he
13 came to, because I met -- his name escapes me.
14 He's a very, very impressive old man. He used to
15 be a U.S. Ambassador to Russia under Reagan. The
16 name escapes me. He testified previously at the
17 hearing that day, and I really have great sense of
18 admiration for him because I remember growing up
19 as a kid he kind of was very instrumental in these
20 kind of end of communist rule, and I remember this
21 one Reagan came to. I was in tenth grade. Reagan
22 came to Moscow, you know, very exciting times.
23 And he -- and I share also his views about U.S.-
24 Russia relations, and he tried to express those
25 views at the hearing. And, unfortunately, you

1 know, he was like yelled over. It was very ugly.

2 And I was very upset. But, you know, I came a
3 little bit earlier for the dinner so we had this
4 interesting conversation.

5 Q. Okay. So other than Ms. Veselnitskaya,
6 Congressman Rohrabacher, his staff, you, and the
7 former Ambassador, was anyone else in attendance?

8 A. There was a Russian translator for
9 Veselnitskaya. He was there, because I remember
10 we were talking, and then he was like very
11 impressed by this old gentleman. He was
12 interpreting for her, and he was present, and we,
13 I remember, had this conversation. He was very
14 also -- I mean, everyone knew that gentleman.
15 It's embarrassing I don't remember his name now.

16 Q. And was that translator Mr. Samochornov
17 or someone else?

18 A. No, it was not Mr. Samochornov. It was
19 this guy, Murat Glashev.

20 Q. What is the nature of your relationship
21 with Congressman Rohrabacher?

22 A. I have communicated with Mr.
23 Rohrabacher's office on issues of Central Asia,
24 because I've done-- you know, despite the fact
25 what New York Times writes about me, a majority, a

1 vast majority of my work in Washington, lobbying
2 work, was connected to supporting these opposition
3 movements and political parties and independent
4 press in Central Asia. So Congressman Rohrabacher
5 always served on this committee, subcommittees
6 which had jurisdiction over those issues, and he
7 was extremely instrumental in helping political
8 prisoners. He's a very good guy, and I have a
9 great respect for him.

10 Q. At that dinner was the Prevezon
11 litigation discussed?

12 A. I don't remember, no.

13 Q. What about the Magnitsky Act?

14 A. Yes, it was discussed.

15 Q. Was Mr. Browder discussed?

16 A. I don't remember specifically.

17 Q. And was the June 9th meeting at Trump
18 Tower mentioned?

19 A. I don't think so.

20 Q. What other interaction did you have with
21 Ms. Veselnitskaya prior to her departure from the
22 U.S. on June 18, I believe it was, 2016?

23 A. That might be it because, you know, I
24 have a child, and her school ends like sometime
25 like mid-June, and I usually take her to Russia

1 for summer. And I left with her, and I haven't
2 been back until probably like August or September.

3 So I was out of the country, myself with my
4 child.

5 Q. Regarding the lobbying efforts related to
6 HRAGI during Ms. Veselnitskaya's June trip, which
7 offices and officials did HRAGI and its associated
8 lobby then?

9 A. I don't think I've ever taken Ms.
10 Veselnitskaya on -- my lobbying engagement was
11 rather short, so I might have taken two or three
12 visits on the Hill in connection with that work.
13 And then I don't think I've ever taken her like to
14 the offices.

15 Q. Okay. So she was not with you during
16 that lobbying effort?

17 A. She was not.

18 Q. Which offices did you visit during that
19 time?

20 A. I visited the office of Dana Rohrabacher,
21 his counterpart, his Ranking Democrat in that
22 subcommittee. Again, his name escapes me. He is
23 a Congressman from Queens, New York. I worked
24 with -- I visited the office of Congressman Hill,
25 and I also visited lawyers for this Adoption

1 Caucus. And we have run into a number of other --
2 I asked for assistance. There's a gentleman who's
3 a former Congressman, who is also very old, is
4 actually a gym buddy of mine. He used to be a
5 Congressman here for many years. Congressman Ron
6 Dellums, he used to be Chairman of Armed Services
7 Committee, is former Marine, and is very, very
8 interesting gentleman. And we've been attending
9 same gym for many years, and we kind of talk. He's
10 a very interesting guy and former Marine, has like
11 very impressive head of hair, and he's actually
12 very impressive. He has a six-pack. He just
13 turned 70 last year. He boxes, and it's very
14 impressive guy. But he likes all these stories,
15 and he traveled to Russia many times. So we -- I
16 mean, old people like to talk, and I'm not young
17 anymore, so kind of -- so I asked him to assist me
18 with -- I explained to him this whole issue of
19 adoption, and so at one of those visits, we went
20 with him, and he knew this -- so we spoke about
21 this issue, this angle, and maybe couple more
22 people, because, you know, with him you walk on
23 the Hill in Rayburn, and people just come to him,
24 like give him a hug. He was well loved, I assume.
25 I only knew him in his capacity as a gym member.

1 So we mentioned -- we met with along the way -- I
2 don't remember. I have notes somewhere, but not
3 that many people, we didn't.

4 Q. Aside from those visits on the Hill, what
5 other lobbying efforts has HRAGI undertaken in the
6 course of its existence?

7 A. None. Just its existence was rather
8 short.

9 Q. Did you participate in lobbying a
10 congressional delegation during a visit to Russia
11 in April of 2016?

12 A. That's true. That was my first
13 congressional contact, lobbying contact. It was
14 in early April 2016.

15 Q. Can you describe the context of that?

16 A. I met Ms. Veselnitskaya that morning for
17 breakfast at the hotel where CODEL was staying,
18 and we --

19 Q. Sorry. Which city was it?

20 A. Moscow. Moscow, Russia. And so we had
21 breakfast, and after breakfast, we're hoping to
22 kind of run into the CODEL people there. But
23 there were only like staffers there. So that
24 morning in the lobby, we run into Congressman
25 Rohrabacher, whom I know, and so I kind of mention

1 to him that there's this issue we'd like to
2 discuss, and this is lawyer who has some
3 information about these things. But they didn't
4 have time at that time. They were departing for
5 service in a church. But they suggested -- he
6 directed me to his staffer, and staffer later I
7 think texted me the address and time for meeting.
8 It was on Sunday. So CODEL had I think it was
9 like five or six people, bipartisan CODEL, and
10 they were having an event in Zamoskvorechye, on
11 this other part of Moscow, at some think tank.
12 And so we had this kind of presentation where we
13 explained this issue at that time, at that
14 meeting, or before that event.

15 Q. And what issue was the presentation?

16 A. It was about this Magnitsky law and about
17 these facts that, you know, there are inaccuracies
18 in that factual story or forgery in that story,
19 and we asked for Congress, Members of Congress to
20 investigate and find the facts or check that
21 story.

22 Q. Did you provide any documents to any of
23 the Congressmen or Congresswomen or staff?

24 A. I developed for this effort -- I
25 developed these two documents, and I presented --

1 I believe -- I don't remember exactly, but I must
2 have given one of these kind of -- actually, it's
3 called a Request for Investigation. So, no, not
4 like overturning sanctions so Putin will not be
5 upset. But it was like a Request for
6 Investigation, and I might have given that
7 document.

8 Q. Okay. During the Moscow CODEL.

9 A. Yes. And I also mentioned existence of
10 the film, which I later on shared with staff.

11 MR. FOSTER: I'm sorry. Did you just say
12 something about so Putin would not be upset?

13 MR. AKHMETSHIN: No, no, no. It was
14 sarcastic statement because everyone tried to
15 describe my lobbying effort as like to please
16 Putin, so he doesn't like Magnitsky law, so they
17 directed me to overturn that. That's not true. I
18 asked to investigate facts, so Request for
19 Investigation. That's the only thing I've ever
20 done in that --

21 MR. TREMONTE: Sarcasm doesn't make for a
22 good record.

23 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Thank you.

24 MR. TREMONTE: I just want to caution you
25 against making sarcastic statements.

1 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Thank you.

2 MR. DAVIS: Okay. I'd like you to take a
3 look at a document that's Bates-stamped RA-SEN-
4 JUDICIARY-000008. This will be Exhibit 10, I
5 believe

6 MR. FOSTER: Exhibit 9.

7 MR. DAVIS: 9, sorry.

8 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 9 was marked for
9 identification.]

10 BY MR. DAVIS:

11 Q. This email exchange was from April 24 and
12 25, 2016, and has the subject line Prevezon.
13 Glenn Simpson writes, "Please circulate a dial-a-
14 number."

15 To the best of your recollection, was
16 this call related to the April lobbying effort of
17 U.S. Congressmen visiting Moscow?

18 A. I don't remember exact facts which were
19 discussed, but I'm nearly certain that it was not.

20 Q. And why are you certain that it was not?

21 MR. TREMONTE: Nearly certain.

22 MR. DAVIS: Nearly certain.

23 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Because the subject line is
24 Prevezon. It's clearly -- and the people who are
25 in there are lawyers.

1 BY MR. DAVIS:

2 Q. To the best of your knowledge, was Mr.
3 Simpson aware of the lobbying effort in Moscow?

4 A. I doubt it.

5 MR. TREMONTE: Do you know one way or the
6 other?

7 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't know, no.

8 BY MR. DAVIS:

9 Q. You mentioned that you developed the
10 documents that you used during that April lobbying
11 effort. Was that information derived from
12 information obtained by Fusion and put onto the
13 Prevezon docket, the process you've sort of
14 described earlier?

15 A. I would say that, you know, I had already
16 some wealth of knowledge about the case, and some
17 of it was actually derived from just watching all
18 this media interviews by Mr. Browder and other
19 things, inconsistencies. Also it was a reference
20 to a film which was not a part of the docket, but
21 there's no direct -- there's no direct input from
22 Global GPS into that document.

23 Q. Did you meet with Congressman Rohrabacher
24 in Berlin in April of 2017?

25 A. I had a drink with him in the spring of

1 this year, yes.

2 MR. DAVIS: I'd like to refer to a CNN
3 article. This will be Exhibit --

4 MR. FOSTER: 10.

5 MR. DAVIS: -- 10.

6 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 10 was marked for
7 identification.]

8 BY MR. DAVIS:

9 Q. This article is titled, "U.S. Congressman
10 talks Russian money laundering with alleged ex-spy
11 in Berlin." The article is dated May 4, 2017.

12 Mr. Akhmetshin, can you describe your interaction
13 with Mr. Rohrabacher in Berlin in April 2017?

14 A. It was a very late night, a drink. I was
15 in Berlin on my own matters, and I was aware of
16 the CODEL's presence. I believe it just arrived
17 to Berlin. Congressman Rohrabacher is also
18 Chairman of this Cannabis Caucus here, and there
19 was this event related to marijuana. I don't
20 remember exactly which one it was. I was aware of
21 their presence in Berlin, and I was staying
22 nearby, and I stopped by for a drink. It was
23 around probably 11 o'clock in the evening, very
24 late. And he bought his own drinks. I bought my
25 own drinks. His wife was there and a couple of

1 staffers. I think there was another Member there.
2 And in a process of that evening, he said, "Oh,
3 do you know what's happening with the Prevezon
4 case and Browder?" And I said -- I never
5 specifically ever asked him to do anything on
6 Prevezon case because there's nothing he can do.
7 There's a separation of powers here. So even
8 Prophet Muhammad won't help Prevezon if they want
9 to. So a suggestion that I was ever doing
10 something for Prevezon in Congress are absurd and
11 inaccurate, and so we had this friendly chat.
12 This was one of the questions, and he asked me
13 what's going on in the case. I said they got a
14 new judge, and trial is going to happen. That was
15 the extent of the discussion. And then he said,
16 yes, this Mr. Browder is such a -- like a liar,
17 because he has his own view of Mr. Browder, and
18 kind of that was the exchange. I believe that one
19 of the staffers who was present there alerted Mr.
20 Weiss, and I also do believe that Mr. Weiss or at
21 least have reasons to believe that he is directly
22 financially compensated by Mr. Browder, and Mr.
23 Weiss had written a lot of lies about me before.

24 Q. Were you still working as a consultant on
25 the Prevezon case at this time?

1 A. I was not. I didn't.

2 BY MR. FOSTER:

3 Q. I'm sorry. Did you just allege that Mr.
4 Browder compensated Mr. Weiss, the author of the
5 article?

6 A. There are reasons to believe so, yes.

7 Q. And what are they?

8 A. There's some analysis and research.

9 Q. Some what?

10 A. Some analysis and research which indicate
11 that Mr. Weiss might have been improper -- have
12 improper relationship with Mr. Browder or he
13 worked for Mr. Browder in the past.

14 Q. So what is this analysis and research?
15 Where does it come from?

16 MR. TREMONTE: Can you give us a minute?

17 [Counsel confers with witness.]

18 MR. TREMONTE: I think the answer to that
19 question necessarily implicates both the attorney-
20 client privilege and the work product doctrine, so
21 I think we're not going to answer that one.

22 BY MR. FOSTER:

23 Q. So you're saying there's no non-
24 privileged basis for your allegation that Mr.
25 Weiss was compensated by Mr. Browder for his

1 journalistic activities?

2 MR. TREMONTE: I think that's the answer for
3 now. We can circle back to this after the next
4 break, but that's the answer for now.

5 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I just want to state for
6 the record that Mr. Weiss have written several
7 articles about me which are utterly inaccurate and
8 incorrect or derogatory.

9 BY MR. DAVIS:

10 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, have you ever met with
11 any Russian Government officials regarding the
12 subject of -- subjects of HRAGI's work, the
13 Magnitsky Act, adoptions, Bill Browder?

14 A. I did not.

15 Q. Do you know if anyone else affiliated
16 with HRAGI or the Prevezon litigation team has met
17 with Russian Government officials about these
18 issues?

19 A. I'm not aware of those contacts.

20 Q. Pardon?

21 A. I'm not aware of those contacts.

22 Q. Between the June 9, 2016, Trump Tower
23 meeting and the public reporting about the meeting
24 that happened in the summer of this year, with
25 whom did you communicate about the June 9th

1 meeting?

2 A. I mentioned to a couple of my buddies,
3 and I recently -- in the spring of this year, I
4 contacted Ms. Veselnitskaya and Mr. Kaveladze as
5 well about this meeting.

6 Q. What prompted you to contact them?

7 A. Because the media have taken great
8 interest in these contacts of Trump campaign with
9 Russians, and I was nearly certain that this
10 meeting would become public.

11 Q. When you contacted them, what did you
12 discuss?

13 A. I mentioned -- I contacted them
14 separately and -- because they are not in D.C.,
15 but I told both of them that really in these kind
16 of level of scrutiny, I mean, it's only a matter
17 of time when this meeting will become public. And
18 I encouraged them to get ahead of the story and
19 tell the story ourselves.

20 Q. Did you compare your recollections of the
21 meeting with Mr. Kaveladze and Ms. Veselnitskaya?

22 A. I don't remember this issue of discussion
23 was ever brought up. I just said that it's a
24 matter of time and it's always to tell your own
25 story yourself than have other than -- let others

1 to define it.

2 Q. I think you've mentioned to my colleagues
3 that you had mentioned the meeting to two of your
4 journalist friends, but I'm not sure if I caught
5 the names. Did you say who they were?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. Okay. And what were their names again?

8 A. It's Desmond Butler and Aram Roston.

9 Q. And at any point prior to this story
10 becoming public, did you discuss the meeting with
11 anybody else?

12 A. Not that I remember.

13 Q. Do you recall if you ever mentioned it to
14 Mr. Lieberman?

15 A. By that time he knew that, yes.

16 Q. Do you know how he came to know it?

17 A. I mentioned to him. As I mentioned to
18 you, he also serves as a legal counsel for me.

19 Q. Did you ever discuss the meeting with
20 Glenn Simpson?

21 A. I don't remember ever discussing with
22 him.

23 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that he
24 knew of the meeting prior to its publication in
25 the press?

1 A. I'm not aware of that knowledge.

2 Q. Okay. Do you know if Ms. Veselnitskaya
3 attempted to connect with the Trump transition
4 team or other Trump associates after the 2016
5 election?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. To the best of your knowledge, did Ms.
8 Veselnitskaya ever have a second meeting with
9 Trump associates beyond the June 9, 2016, meeting?

10 A. I don't know.

11 Q. You may have answered this already, but
12 have you had any contact with any associates of
13 Mr. Trump since the June 9, 2016, meeting?

14 A. No, never.

15 Q. Have you had contact with Mr. Kaveladze
16 since then?

17 A. I met with Mr. Kaveladze in June of this
18 year.

19 Q. Since the public reporting about the June
20 9, 2016, meeting, have you had communications
21 directly or indirectly with any of the other
22 people who attended the meeting?

23 A. Only with -- only with Veselnitskaya.

24 BY MR. FOSTER:

25 Q. I'd like to circle back to the

1 conversations with your journalist friends again.

2 So how long have you known them?

3 A. Known?

4 Q. The two journalists that you spoke to.

5 A. Many years; 15, 20 years maybe.

6 Q. Each of them?

7 A. About 15 years, I would say.

8 Q. And how do you know them?

9 A. Through their work. I was just pitching
10 them stories when they were writing stories about
11 stuff. But I -- it's developed into a personal
12 relationship.

13 Q. And these are separate contacts, not
14 together?

15 A. Separate contacts, yes.

16 Q. And in what time frame was it that you
17 told them about the meeting?

18 A. I don't remember. It's probably a few
19 weeks after, maybe.

20 Q. So it was closer to the meeting itself --

21 A. Closer to meeting.

22 Q. -- than to when it was publicly reported?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And can you recount separately as to each
25 of them your best recollection of your

1 conversation with them about the meeting?

2 A. Just at one point I mentioned like, hey,
3 you know, I was just at this meeting, it was like
4 total bullshit it was. That's pretty much the
5 extent of it.

6 Q. I believe you mentioned earlier that they
7 asked to report on it?

8 A. Yes, they said, "Can we write about it?"
9 They were kind of excited about that, at that
10 time probably not as excited they would have been
11 like a year later. But, again, no one believed
12 that it would ever go anywhere, that campaign.
13 But I said like, no, it's not my secret, guys.
14 I'm just telling it to you kind of on the -- and
15 they said like when the time is right, would you
16 let us know, and I said yes, I would let you know.
17 BY MR. DAVIS:

18 Q. Do you recall if those conversations were
19 before or after the hacked DNC emails started --

20 MR. TREMONTE: Excuse me?

21 BY MR. DAVIS:

22 Q. Do you remember if those conversations
23 with your journalist friends about the meeting
24 occurred prior to or after the public release of
25 hacked DNC emails?

1 A. I don't remember. I don't remember even
2 caring that much about this.

3 Q. I have a series of questions about your
4 relationship with Fusion GPS. How long have you
5 known Glenn Simpson?

6 A. Ten, 12 years, probably.

7 Q. When did you first meet him?

8 A. Maybe 10, 12 years ago. I don't remember
9 exactly.

10 Q. And you've mentioned before that you met
11 his wife first. What was the context of your
12 first interactions with Mr. Simpson?

13 A. With Mr. Simpson, probably he was writing
14 story about corruption in Kazakhstan. I think
15 that was one of the first stories I worked with
16 him on.

17 Q. Did you pitch stories to Mr. Simpson
18 while he was a journalist?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. And were you a source for him otherwise
21 while he was a journalist?

22 A. I might have.

23 Q. Have you ever received payments from
24 Fusion GPS?

25 A. Never.

1 Q. Have you ever made payments to Fusion
2 GPS?

3 A. Never.

4 Q. What interactions have you had with
5 Fusion GPS?

6 A. Other than social interaction with
7 Simpson, none.

8 Q. Have you and Fusion ever worked for the
9 same client on an issue beyond working for
10 BakerHostetler on the Prevezon litigation?

11 A. No.

12 Q. When did you first learn about Fusion's
13 research into Donald Trump's alleged ties with
14 Russia?

15 A. When it was reported in the media.

16 Q. So according to press reports, knowledge
17 of the dossier was circling around the
18 journalistic community in D.C. prior to its
19 publication. Had you heard journalists talking
20 about a dossier or related matters prior to
21 BuzzFeed publishing it?

22 A. I had.

23 Q. Do you recall when you heard that?

24 A. Maybe in the summer of that year.

25 Q. And what was the context of what you

1 heard, the content and context?

2 A. You know, there was like rumors in D.C.
3 and other journalists -- you know, everyone who
4 writes about Russia, they kind of know each other.
5 Either they've rotated from Moscow or, you know -
6 - it's a fairly small group of people who kind of
7 cover those issues, and they all know each other.

8 Q. Okay. So you had heard rumors of the
9 dossier or dossier-type claims in the summer of
10 that year. Were you aware that Fusion was tied to
11 that?

12 A. I was not.

13 BY MR. FOSTER:

14 Q. Where did you hear about the dossier?
15 From whom?

16 A. Just some journalists will ask me for
17 lunch, a drink, and they'll mention, hey, you
18 know, there's this kind of documents are floating,
19 there's this jaw-dropping, like perverse sexual
20 things, and there are tapes of it. And, you know,
21 something to that effect.

22 Q. You don't recall who first told you that?

23 A. Maybe someone from New York Times.
24 There's this guy, Stephen Lee Miller. He was
25 editor at that time, so I remember --

1 Q. Who?

2 A. Stephen Lee Miller.

3 Q. And did any of these journalists ever
4 show you copies of the memos that were --

5 A. I've never seen copies. I've heard
6 there's like they say, like what do you think? I
7 say like unlikely, that would be too stupid.

8 Q. Do you know Christopher Steele?

9 A. I never met him.

10 Q. Christopher Burroughs?

11 A. Never met him.

12 Q. Sir Andrew Wood?

13 A. I don't know him directly, but I was at
14 events with him.

15 Q. Which event was that?

16 A. I kind of -- as part of my program work,
17 I am affiliated with this thing called Halifax
18 Security Forum. And so I attempt -- when I can, I
19 go up maybe five, six times. It's in Halifax that
20 one weekend where actually some of your colleagues
21 go as well. It's an interesting event,
22 intellectually stimulating and kind of good. And
23 I know he -- he comes like every year, I guess.

24 Q. Did you attend the Halifax International
25 Security Forum in 2016?

1 A. I did, yes. He was there for sure.

2 Q. It has been reported that at this forum
3 Orbis Associate Sir Andrew Wood connected with
4 Senator McCain and David Kramer to inform them of
5 the dossier's existence. Did you have any part in
6 that contact?

7 A. I had no part in the contact. I was not
8 aware of it.

9 Q. Did you have any contact with Sir Andrew
10 Wood during the 2016 Halifax International --

11 A. I did not talk to him.

12 Q. What about Senator McCain?

13 A. I might have said hi to him. I know him
14 personally.

15 Q. You know him personally?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What about David Kramer?

18 A. I also know him well. I might have
19 spoken with him.

20 Q. Did you discuss the dossier with Senator
21 McCain or David Kramer?

22 A. I wasn't aware of existence of dossier.

23 Q. You weren't aware of --

24 A. I was not aware of the existence of
25 dossier at that time.

1 Q. Okay. But you had heard the rumors about
2 the --

3 A. Yeah, but it was not -- in other words,
4 it was kind of -- at that time rumors were like
5 what you do think, there's like rumor, there's
6 like tape exists, and --

7 Q. Did you discuss those rumors with --

8 A. No, I did not. And we -- we have
9 different opinions about Russia with both David
10 and Senator McCain. So that's one issue we agree
11 to disagree.

12 Q. Do you know anyone else from Orbis
13 Business Intelligence?

14 A. I was not even aware of existence of
15 company.

16 Q. All right. Were you involved in the
17 creation of any of the information that ended up
18 in the dossier?

19 A. I was not.

20 Q. Other than what you've read in the media,
21 do you know who was involved in the dossier's
22 creation?

23 A. I don't know. I don't have any
24 knowledge.

25 Q. Okay. Did you ever provide information

1 directly or indirectly to Steele for potential
2 inclusion in the dossier?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Did you ever provide information directly
5 or indirectly to Glenn Simpson or Fusion GPS for
6 potential inclusion in the dossier?

7 A. I did not.

8 Q. Did you ever encourage anyone else to
9 provide information to Steele or Fusion for
10 potential inclusion in the dossier?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. Did you ever discuss dossier allegations,
13 whether tied to the dossier or the allegations
14 themselves, with Ms. Veselnitskaya?

15 A. No.

16 Q. With anyone on the Prevezon litigation
17 team?

18 A. No.

19 Q. With anybody from HRAGI?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Do you know who any of the sources are in
22 the dossier?

23 A. I have no idea.

24 Q. Do you know Mikhail Kulagin?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Ambassador Kislyak?

2 A No. I know of him but never met him.

3 Q. Were you in any way involved in the
4 distribution of the dossier or in pitching it to
5 the media?

6 A. No, sir.

7 MR. FOSTER: Okay. Now I'd like to take a
8 look at your second declaration from the
9 International Mineral Resources litigation. This
10 will be Exhibit 11.

11 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 11 was marked for
12 identification.]

13 [Pause.]

14 BY MR. DAVIS:

15 Q. This is a declaration dated June 14,
16 2015, which you've signed. I'd like you to take a
17 look at page 5. On page 5, you have a section
18 titled "The London Information Bazaar." Paragraph
19 14 states in part, "One of my most important
20 resources was the vibrant exchange of financial,
21 political, social, and cultural news or
22 information that exists in London. I call this the
23 London Information Bazaar or London Information
24 Exchange. In London, journalists, businessmen,
25 entrepreneurs, stockbrokers and traders, corporate

1 officers and directors, politicians and workers at
2 nongovernmental organizations and interest groups
3 attempt to obtain some financial or other
4 advantage by being the first to know certain facts
5 that could affect corporate strategies, commercial
6 outcomes, social pecking orders, political
7 fortunes or futures, or other kinds of data.
8 Because London fancies itself as the financial
9 capital of the world, one can find information on
10 the London Information Bazaar about almost any
11 part of the world."

12 Then in paragraph 15, you state,
13 "Information passes on the London Information
14 Bazaar by barter, particularly among journalists.
15 If one is interested in a given topic and has
16 news to share, one can quite frequently discover
17 information on the topic of interest by sharing
18 information with the source of that information.
19 The unique mix of finance, politics, journalism,
20 and geopolitics that exists in London makes it a
21 very lively information bazaar."

22 I'd like you to take a look at a related
23 document before I ask you some questions about
24 these. This will be Exhibit 12. This is part of
25 your deposition in the IMR litigation.

1 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 12 was marked for

2 identification.]

3 [Pause.]

4 BY MR. DAVIS:

5 Q. On the last page of this, which is marked
6 263, it appears you're describing this activity in
7 London some more, stating, "There's a certain
8 information kind of exchange, barter of
9 information, which is connected to pretty much
10 everything. I'm aware of Russian situation
11 matters." And then later you state, "So I must
12 say that there's -- in addition to information,
13 there's a lot of misinformation and a lot -- a lot
14 of forgeries as well actually that's circulating.
15 So people -- it's very informal, and it's not an
16 entity which kind of guarantees any kind of
17 accuracy of those."

18 Mr. Akhmetshin, can you describe this
19 London Information Bazaar in more detail? Is it
20 entirely informal? Or is it facilitated by any
21 websites or physical locations?

22 A. It's a place to -- it's very -- you know,
23 there's no sign: information bazaar, but, you
24 know, I use it best to describe this situation in
25 London. From my experience, it's full of exchange

1 of that kind of information which probably I'm not
2 aware of existence for any other place in world
3 which will have that kind of concentration of
4 interest and documents and information. And so a
5 lot of people, people are trying to kind of use or
6 barter their information to obtain advantage
7 there.

8 Q. So is this your own conceptualization of
9 how the London Information Exchange works? Or is
10 this some sort of actual entity?

11 A. It's not an actual entity. It's my kind
12 of-- in order to describe it, that's how I kind of
13 -- I chose the term. It's not a formal term.

14 Q. You note that it is one of your most
15 important resources and that you are aware of
16 Russian matters in it. In 2016, were you aware of
17 any efforts or -- efforts in the London
18 Information Bazaar to gather information relating
19 to Donald Trump's relationship with Russia?

20 A. I was not active at that time, you know,
21 just this litigation drained me, so I had no
22 business in London at that time.

23 Q. Okay. To the best of your knowledge,
24 does Fusion GPS participate in this London
25 Information Exchange?

1 A. I'm not aware of their direct involvement
2 in that.

3 Q. Okay. Does Christopher Steele, to the
4 best of your knowledge?

5 A. I don't know him.

6 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that
7 intelligence agents plant disinformation in this
8 exchange?

9 A. Oh, absolutely.

10 Q. Would that include Russian intelligence
11 agents, to the best of your knowledge?

12 A. I'm not aware of specific cases, but I'm
13 quite sure that a lot of misinformation also kind
14 of is being circulated there.

15 MR. FOSTER: Why do you think that?

16 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Because, you know, some of
17 the things which are -- actually, there's a very
18 important thing, which I don't know whether it's
19 mentioned in the number of participants. There
20 are also -- London is -- has a number of private
21 business firms, which those firms are usually
22 staffed by former intelligence officers who were
23 retired or just left the jobs. And sometimes they
24 provide due diligence, and very often, at least in
25 my past work, I've observed work products of those

1 agencies, and they often were inaccurate or
2 incomplete or just completely false.

3 BY MR. DAVIS:

4 Q. In light of your familiarity with
5 business in Russia and related matters, what is
6 your evaluation of the Steele dossier?

7 A. I did not put a lot of effort in
8 analyzing it. I kind of scan for this thing, and
9 I think it's total rubbish.

10 MR. DAVIS: All right. I think we're at a
11 good stopping place for our side right now. We'll
12 go off the record. It is 12:58.

13 [Recess at 12:58 p.m. to 1:08 p.m.]

14 MS. CLAFLIN: All right. So we are back on
15 at 1:08.

16 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY
17 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

18 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, you just testified that
19 the dossier was, in your opinion, "rubbish." But
20 you also testified a few minutes before that you
21 had nothing to do with it. So what is the basis
22 for your opinion?

23 A. Because I think things which are
24 described there are quite incredulous.

25 Q. Do you have any sources?

1 A. I have no sources. Just personal
2 opinion.

3 Q. You didn't do any research on it?

4 A. I did not.

5 Q. And you have no independent knowledge
6 about it?

7 A. No.

8 Q. We're going to turn back to the June 9th
9 meeting. You testified that you didn't know if
10 the second meeting ever took place. Do you know
11 of any--

12 MR. TREMONTE: What's the second meeting?

13 MS. CLAFLIN: A follow-up meeting to the
14 June 9th meeting.

15 MR. TREMONTE: Oh, that is just a definite
16 article. I don't know. Have we established that
17 there was a second meeting?

18 MS. CLAFLIN: Sorry.

19 MR. TREMONTE: Okay.

20 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

21 Q. I think you testified earlier that you
22 were not sure if a second meeting to the June 9th
23 meeting ever took place.

24 A. I have no knowledge of any of it.

25 Q. Do you have any recollection of any

1 discussions about a follow-up meeting?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Was the matter ever raised to you by Ms.
4 Veselnitskaya or others about having a second
5 meeting?

6 A. No.

7 MS. CLAFLIN: I'm marking this as, I guess,
8 Document 13.

9 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 13 was marked for
10 identification.]

11 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

12 Q. This is not your phone bill. This is Mr.
13 Kaveladze's phone bill. If you would turn to what
14 is Bates-stamped as page 303, November 14th at
15 8:35 a.m.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is that your phone number?

18 A. It is my phone, yes.

19 Q. So it looks like you had a 19-minute with
20 Mr. Kaveladze on November 14th of 2016.

21 MR. TREMONTE: I apologize. I'm not seeing
22 it. Where is this one? 8:34 a.m.?

23 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes.

24 MR. TREMONTE: Okay.

25 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

1 Q. Do you recall anything about that call?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell us about that?

4 A. I called him to follow up on this
5 business-- as I mentioned to you, I have a
6 conversation with him that I would like to do some
7 work for him. He was with this big organization,
8 and I was asking him if possible to kind of -- if
9 there is anything I could do to help him, either
10 any issues that he would like to -- I mean, his
11 organization to address them if they need some
12 help.

13 Q. So the June 9th meeting didn't come up at
14 that call?

15 A. Not at all.

16 Q. Did the election?

17 A. No.

18 MS. CLAFLIN: Okay. I'm marking this as
19 Exhibit 14.

20 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 14 was marked for
21 identification.]

22 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

23 Q. If you'll turn to page 324 on the Bates
24 stamp.

25 MR. TREMONTE: Can you tell us what this is?

1 MS. CLAFLIN: This is a document which was
2 prepared by Mr. Kaveladze's attorneys and produced
3 to the Committee.

4 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

5 Q. And it looks like there's another text
6 with you on July 8th of 2017.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. Is that your number?

9 A. That is my number, yes.

10 Q. It appears that you texted Mr. Kaveladze
11 at 19:16 with the message, "Quick call."

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Do you remember what that call was about?

14 A. I think it was about this getting story
15 out.

16 Q. Getting the story out? Is this after the
17 story had broken?

18 A. No. I believe it's not. I don't
19 remember, but it was about this story, and I kind
20 of, you know, was still trying to get a story out.

21 Q. So do you recall what day the story came
22 out in the press?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. Would you be surprised to learn it was
25 July 8, 2017?

1 A. Probably. Maybe I want to talk about the
2 story.

3 Q. Okay. Do you recall anything that was
4 discussed? Did you have that call?

5 A. I don't think so.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I don't remember. I remember having
8 breakfast with him in June. I kind of encouraged
9 him to do that, and he said, look, it's not my
10 kind of thing, but, you know, I just wanted to --
11 I don't even remember whether we had -- I think I
12 produced that one as well at some point.

13 Q. A breakfast with him in June of 2017?

14 A. Correct, yes.

15 Q. Okay. Can you kind of walk through maybe
16 other communications you may have had with Mr.
17 Kaveladze about that?

18 A. About?

19 Q. About the June 9th meeting.

20 A. I don't think we discussed the substance
21 of the meeting ever, but already at the end of the
22 -- I mean, like in June when this -- as I
23 mentioned to you, I approached both Ms.
24 Veselnitskaya and Kaveladze, saying, I mean, it's
25 important to tell the story ourselves, and kind of

1 he told me like it's not my kind of story to tell,
2 and she didn't want to do it.

3 Q. So you texted him. You don't think there
4 was a call that day.

5 A. I don't remember talking to him.

6 Q. Do you recall any other calls around the
7 same time?

8 A. I don't remember talking to him at that
9 time.

10 Q. And then you say you had an in-person
11 meeting in June, a breakfast.

12 A. Correct, yes.

13 Q. Any other communications with him --

14 A. Not that I can remember.

15 Q. -- that would be of interest? Okay.

16 A. There's one -- I remember this one fairly
17 long conversation I had about this, what kind of
18 possible business work. He was asking, "What did
19 you work on?" You know, we just -- I really
20 hardly knew the guy. And then kind of nothing
21 came out of this.

22 BY MR. PRIVOR:

23 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, you just said you hardly
24 knew the guy, but you're exchanging text messages
25 with him. You knew him well enough to send him an

1 informal text that says, "Time for a call."

2 A. Time for a quick call.

3 Q. For a quick call, so you're friendly
4 enough with him that just a quick call, just that
5 kind of introduction is good enough to spark a
6 conversation. So did you know him before then?

7 A. No, I did not.

8 Q. And so you just had one June 9th meeting
9 with him. Then you had a breakfast meeting with
10 him another time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And based on that --

13 A. I had a long conversation with him.

14 Q. A long conversation when?

15 A. The one which reflected in that bill.

16 Q. On the phone bill in July?

17 A. Correct, yes.

18 Q. But this text is from before or after?

19 MR. TREMONTE: November, right?

20 MR. AKHMETSHIN: November. It was like
21 several months after the -- after June 9 meeting.

22 BY MR. PRIVOR:

23 Q. Okay. So based on that 19-minute
24 telephone call, you know him well enough now to
25 send him a casual text message asking him for a

1 conversation?

2 A. I think so, yes.

3 Q. And you don't think you talked to him any
4 other time?

5 A. I don't remember. At least I tried to
6 locate my communication. Other than what I saw, I
7 don't remember any.

8 Q. You said you tried to locate your
9 conversations. What do you mean by that? Did you
10 search your records?

11 MR. TREMONTE: We've had conversations that
12 are obviously privileged about efforts that --

13 BY MR. PRIVOR:

14 Q. Well, setting aside conversations with
15 counsel, what did you do to search your
16 conversations or look for conversations?

17 A. I searched my phone bill, and I searched
18 my email.

19 Q. And did you look at text messages as
20 well?

21 A. I did, yes.

22 Q. And did you specifically look for text
23 messages with Mr. Kaveladze?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. And did you find any?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. And you haven't produced those to the
3 Committee.

4 A. This one, "quick call."

5 Q. The one that we're looking at from Mr.
6 Kaveladze's documents. But you haven't produced
7 that document.

8 MR. TREMONTE: I don't know that you know
9 what-- I don't know that he knows what -- we can
10 revisit this at the end, what was produced and
11 what the subpoena called for.

12 MR. PRIVOR: Yeah, we would ask you to take
13 another look again at your communications. Okay.
14 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

15 Q. In the same document, if you'll turn to
16 page 328, there's another call on July 14th at
17 12:11, again, something that Mr. Kaveladze
18 identified as your number. Is that your number?

19 A. Which one?

20 MR. TREMONTE: I think this one, July 14 at
21 12:11?

22 MS. CLAFLIN: Yes.

23 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes.

24 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

25 Q. Is that your number?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So it appears you texted Mr. Kaveladze on
3 July 14th, it looks like regarding Alan Futerfas.
4 Do you know who Alan Futerfas is?

5 MR. TREMONTE: Hold on just one second.

6 [Pause.]

7 MR. TREMONTE: 328.

8 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes.

9 MR. TREMONTE: The next page. Do you have
10 it?

11 MR. GIBALDI: You know, I think this
12 document is just incomplete. That's why. It ends
13 on 327. But if you have it there, that's fine.

14 MR. TREMONTE: Where are we again? Here?

15 MS. CLAFLIN: Sorry about that.

16 MR. GIBALDI: That's okay.

17 [Pause.]

18 MR. AKHMETSHIN: This was the excerpt from
19 this text with -- after this news broke, you know,
20 there's a lot of -- that barrage of like news
21 inquiries, and I was actually traveling at that
22 time. So someone texted me this thing, and I
23 thought that since it had any relevance to him, I
24 forwarded it to him.

25 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

1 Q. So why did you think to text it to him?

2 A. Because, you know, so he has heads up.

3 You know, I was very upset by the way media
4 treated me. It was like comedy circus, or at least
5 it will give him some heads up because media, I'm
6 sure they contacted him. So at least that was
7 something which-- which was like friendly gesture
8 or something.

9 Q. So do you understand Mr. Futerfas is
10 describing Mr. Kaveladze in this?

11 A. I believe so, yes.

12 Q. He says, "He is a U.S. citizen. He told
13 me specifically he was not working for the Russian
14 Government, and I in fact left when I asked him
15 that question." So you think that was regarding
16 Mr. Kaveladze?

17 A. I think so, yes.

18 Q. Did Mr. Futerfas ever contact you?

19 A. No. I don't know who he is. At least at
20 that time.

21 Q. Did you get any response from Mr.
22 Kaveladze about this text?

23 A. Nothing.

24 Q. Did you send a similar text to anyone
25 else-- Ms. Veselnitskaya, Mr. Samochornov?

1 A. No.

2 Q. So the only person you corresponded with
3 about the meeting when the news broke was Mr.
4 Kaveladze?

5 A. Correct, yes.

6 Q. Not Mr. Goldstone?

7 A. No. I don't have his contacts or I
8 wouldn't care about him.

9 Q. Did you ever speak with Ms. Veselnitskaya
10 after the news broke at all about the meeting?

11 A. I helped her to arrange for NBC
12 interview.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. When the news broke, I thought that, you
15 know, finally, you know, I call her, I was like,
16 "I told you so, but at least try to tell it in
17 your own words." And I helped to arrange this.
18 She did this very long interview with NBC.

19 Q. And you helped her prepare for that
20 interview?

21 A. I did not help her to prepare. I
22 arranged for, you know, just NBC Moscow office,
23 they sent in someone from their London office to
24 interview her, and so I kind of helped arrange
25 this.

1 Q. Okay. Did you help her decide what she
2 was going to say? Did you just do the logistics?

3 A. I did logistics, and I also told her like
4 be relaxed, don't be aggressive, just general
5 things. But nothing about this, like what you say
6 and how you say it. It's more of like how you say
7 things. But, really, there's nothing of substance
8 there. So I told her like dress nice, you know,
9 just kind of -- some practical suggestions.

10 Q. Were you ever contacted by
11 representatives or attorneys from any of the Trump
12 campaign people about the meeting in July?

13 A. I was not. I personally was not.

14 Q. Okay. I think we'll switch gears then.

15 MR. TREMONTE: Are we at the end of sort of
16 this section of questioning?

17 MS. CLAFLIN: Yes. You can put that aside.

18 MR. TREMONTE: So just so the record's
19 clear, we produced everything that's nonprivileged
20 in response to this Committee's request to us. In
21 our view -- and we can go back and look at that,
22 look at your request and have a discussion about
23 it. But these text messages were not responsive
24 to your request. If you want to make a follow-up
25 request to which these are responsive, obviously

1 we will take that into consideration. But I just
2 want the record to be clear that these text
3 messages were not, in counsel's view, responsive
4 to your requests.

5 MR. PRIVOR: I don't think there's any need
6 to argue now.

7 MR. TREMONTE: Yeah.

8 MR. PRIVOR: I mean, we view those as
9 responsive to the extent they related to the June
10 9th meeting. So we certainly ask you to produce
11 anything related to that.

12 MR. TREMONTE: Okay.

13 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

14 Q. A quick discussion about your work for
15 some various entities. Have you ever done any
16 work for Emin or Aras Agalarov or any of their
17 affiliates?

18 A. I have not, no.

19 Q. Or the Crocus Group?

20 A. No.

21 Q. I think you testified earlier that you
22 have not done any work for the Russian Government
23 or representatives of the Russian Government?

24 A. Not knowingly, no.

25 Q. What about former Soviet countries or

1 their representatives?

2 A. I'm sorry?

3 Q. Former Soviet countries?

4 A. I have worked with some former Soviet
5 countries or some citizens of those countries.

6 Q. And you said Kazakhstan, I believe?

7 A. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

8 Q. Any others?

9 A. No, not the governments.

10 Q. This is going to be a long list and
11 forgive me, but hopefully it will be quick.

12 During the 2016 Presidential campaign, did you
13 have any contact with any of the following people:

14 Oleg Deripaska?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Pyotr Katsyv?

17 A. '16? I was -- I saw him once at the
18 birthday party for Denis Katsyv. But I'm trying
19 to remember what year was it. So we are talking
20 about what time frame?

21 Q. It would be late 2015 through the whole
22 of 2016.

23 A. I saw Pyotr Katsyv at that birthday party
24 of his son.

25 Q. Okay. And that would be Denis?

1 A. Denis Katsyv's party, yes.

2 Q. Did you have any contact with Denis
3 Katsyv?

4 A. I have, yes.

5 Q. And can you describe those contacts?

6 A. I believe that, you know, just some of
7 the work I've done for HRAGI, and I wanted to kind
8 of continue that work, and I met with him after --
9 in 2015 and 2016. I met him in capacity as
10 someone who worked on the Prevezon case, and I
11 also worked with him in the capacity of HRAGI
12 staff because he was one of the contributors. And
13 afterwards, after this work ended, I encouraged
14 him to continue this HRAGI work because I do
15 believe that we kind of have an opportunity to set
16 the record straight, but he unfortunately didn't
17 have money or maybe desire to do that. So I
18 discussed with him HRAGI relief matters, yes.

19 Q. So do you talk to him fairly regularly?

20 A. Not regularly. When I was in -- I'll
21 meet him for lunch, maybe. Maybe have a couple --

22 Q. When you're in Moscow?

23 A. When I was in Moscow, yes.

24 Q. He's Moscow-based?

25 A. He is Moscow-based, yes.

1 Q. How often do you make it back to Moscow?

2 A. I still have a sister living there, and
3 sometime I travel for work, so could be five, six
4 times a year.

5 Q. Okay. Back to our list, Sergey Lavrov?

6 A. Never met him.

7 Q. Sergey Kislyak?

8 A. Never met him.

9 Q. Sergey Gorkov?

10 A. Never met him.

11 Q. Igor Sechin?

12 A. Never met him.

13 Q. Konstantin Kilimnik?

14 A. I met him once.

15 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that
16 meeting?

17 A. Probably it was 2014.

18 Q. Okay. In what context?

19 A. I was trying to -- he accompanied a
20 member of Ukrainian Parliament to Washington, and
21 they were, I believe, to attend State of the Union
22 address. And I had maybe 15-minute tea with that
23 member of the Parliament, and Konstantin Kilimnik
24 was present at that meeting.

25 Q. Okay. How about Sergei Millian?

1 A. Say again?
2 Q. Sergei Millian.
3 A. Doesn't sound familiar, no.
4 Q. Dmitry Peskov?
5 A. I never met him.
6 Q. Sergei Ivanov?
7 A. Never met him.
8 Q. Igor Divyekin?
9 A. Never met him.
10 Q. Konstantin Kosachev?
11 A. Never met him.
12 Q. Mikhail Kulagin?
13 A. Never met him.
14 Q. Mikhail Fridman?
15 A. Never met him.
16 Q. Oleg Govorun?
17 A. Never met him.
18 Q. Petr Aven?
19 A. Never met him.
20 Q. Herman Kahn?
21 A. Never met him.
22 Q. Len Blavatnik?
23 A. Never met him.
24 Q. Rinat Akhmetov?
25 A. Never met him. I should.

1 [Laughter.]

2 Q. The same initials. Yuri Chaika?

3 A. I never met him. Wait a minute. Yuri
4 Chaika I met once.

5 Q. Okay. Can you tell me a little bit about
6 that meeting?

7 A. At the same birthday party for Katsyv's
8 son.

9 Q. Okay. And you said that party was in
10 2015?

11 A. I believe so, yes -- 2016, I think.

12 Q. And do you know Denis Katsyv just through
13 business, or did you have a social relationship
14 with him, too?

15 A. For business, but kind of friendly. He's
16 a nice man. I feel sorry for him to be dragged
17 into this thing, but -- and it took a serious toll
18 on him. He's a good young man, in my view, so nice
19 person.

20 Q. You met him originally through business
21 ties?

22 A. For business, correct, yes.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. We're now friends, though.

25 Q. Carrying on, Andrei Bondarev?

1 A. Again?

2 Q. Andrei Bondarev, B-O-N-D-A-R-E-V?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Oleg Solodukhin?

5 A. Never met him.

6 Q. And Anton Vaino?

7 A. How do you spell the name?

8 Q. V-A-I-N-O.

9 A. Well, no, I did not meet him.

10 Q. Okay.

11 BY MR. PRIVOR:

12 Q. Just so we're clear, Mr. Akhmetshin, when
13 you say you've never met them, do you mean that to
14 include you don't know them at all?

15 A. I know of them. Anton Vaino is, I think,
16 chief of staff to presidential administration in
17 Russia.

18 Q. But have you ever had any personal
19 contact?

20 A. Never personal contact, never met them. I
21 heard of some of the people in that list. They
22 are quite prominent. But some names I have never
23 even heard before. But I never had any personal
24 contacts with these people.

25 Q. So not any telephone calls --

1 A. No telephone calls.

2 Q. -- no emails?

3 A. No exchange, no emails, nothing. The
4 couple people I mentioned there, I explained the
5 context in which -- it was not business or it was
6 social.

7 MR. PRIVOR: Very good.

8 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

9 Q. Okay. Do you know Suleyman Kerimov?

10 A. I met him.

11 Q. Who is he?

12 A. He's a businessman from Russia.

13 Q. Would you describe your relationship with
14 him?

15 A. I had a client who had similar interests
16 with Suleyman Kerimov.

17 Q. So you never worked directly for him?

18 A. I never worked directly for Suleyman
19 Kerimov.

20 Q. You worked with associates of his that
21 were representing him while you were representing
22 another client? Is that fair?

23 A. Correct. We have joint interests.

24 Q. Okay. Have you met him?

25 A. I met him once, yes.

1 Q. What's his relationship to Vladimir
2 Putin?

3 A. I'm not aware of his relations with
4 Putin.

5 Q. And you, as far as you know, have never
6 been paid by Mr. Kerimov?

7 A. I have never been paid by Mr. Kerimov. I
8 had lunch in his -- very nice lunch in his office
9 once. He procured his own sheep. He's from the
10 Muslim Republic of Dagestan, and so he was very
11 proud of this. He said this sheep is like from my
12 village, and they bring it to me regularly. So it
13 was like a very memorable lunch. He's also
14 interesting character.

15 Q. Okay. Thank you. Can you describe your
16 work for EuroChem?

17 A. I was working EuroChem in connections
18 with their legal proceedings, both research and
19 arbitrations, in Netherlands and Switzerland.

20 Q. And you were working with them as a
21 lobbyist? As a researcher? What was your role?

22 A. I was working as researcher for the
23 lawyers for EuroChem. I never had direct
24 relations with EuroChem. I worked for their
25 litigation through the law firm.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. For the law firm which represented them.

3 Q. Do you know who Andrey Melnichenko is?

4 A. I heard of him.

5 Q. Have you met him?

6 A. I never met him in person.

7 Q. So you never had any meetings with him
8 during your representation for EuroChem?

9 A. Never.

10 Q. Who paid for your work on EuroChem?

11 A. I was paid by a law firm.

12 Q. And which law firm is that?

13 A. It's Salisbury & Ryan.

14 Q. Is it correct that you were accused of
15 computer espionage in a Federal court lawsuit
16 related to your work for EuroChem?

17 A. I'm aware of this allegation, yes.

18 Q. Did you know about any efforts to hack
19 the computers of International Mineral Resources?

20 A. I never -- I'm not aware of any efforts
21 or have never participated in any hacking.

22 Q. Were you involved in any efforts to leak
23 documents that were stored on International
24 Mineral Resources computers to the press?

25 A. I was not involved in this thing.

1 Q. Do you know Viktor Ivanov?

2 A. I met him once, yes.

3 Q. Can you describe that meeting?

4 A. I did a pro bono work for Russian drug
5 enforcement agency's efforts to strengthen U.S.-
6 Russia fight against heroin coming from
7 Afghanistan.

8 Q. And what was the nature of your role
9 there?

10 A. So I'll give you a little background. It
11 was a while go, probably 8, 9 years ago. I knew a
12 journalist here in Washington, Russian journalist.
13 Her name is Svetlana Babaeva, and she -- I knew
14 her well. I knew her husband also quite well. So
15 she once asked me for an advice. She said that --
16 and it was the time during this U.S.-Russia reset,
17 so there was -- I mean efforts. I mean, Obama
18 administration really tried in the beginning to
19 kind of make things better, and so there was this
20 -- from Babaeva, I knew that there was a special
21 like U.S.-Russia working group to fight narcotics,
22 you know, just full of narcotics, and she
23 mentioned to me that her boss tasked her with kind
24 of getting stories about it stronger. And since I
25 have general interest in Afghanistan and things,

1 so she kind of explained to me that they do have -
2 - and actually had several visits by Mr. Ivanov to
3 Washington, but, you know, their efforts to kind
4 of to strengthen this cooperation and fighting
5 drugs in Afghanistan were not successful. And she
6 said like, "What do you think could be kind of
7 done?" And I feel very strongly about heroin
8 coming from Afghanistan. I have two very close
9 friends in my life who died because of heroin, and
10 I also think that, you know, just every year in
11 Russia hundreds of thousands of people die of
12 heroin because it's cheaper than beer or vodka.

13 So I told her that, you know, just it's
14 very important, even if this administration
15 doesn't respond to this thing, but awareness,
16 because United States, at that time it was not
17 such a big problem as it's now, but, you know,
18 there's a lot of Afghan heroin now ends up in the
19 United States. So I learned a bit more about the
20 issue, so she explained to me what the issues are,
21 and so I suggested to them to maybe at the time
22 next time Ivanov comes to publish an article, op-
23 ed article by Mr. Ivanov to underline those
24 issues. And at the time when she will be meeting
25 with this official, that will be very helpful, and

1 that's also to maybe to eventually get some
2 congressional support of this issue or attention
3 to this issue.

4 So together with Ms. Babaeva, I helped
5 Ms. Babaeva draft that op-ed, and I helped to
6 place that op-ed. And during this Mr. Ivanov's
7 visit to Washington, I also helped -- I talked to
8 someone at this think tank I know at the Carnegie
9 Endowment, and I helped to organize event at which
10 he spoke. This effort was pro bono. I never
11 charged any money, so I did not view it as a work
12 but, rather, as a social service, and it's my
13 personal interest.

14 Q. Okay. So you weren't paid for the work
15 you did with that?

16 A. I was not paid. I specifically actually,
17 you know, this -- so she asked, "So what do you
18 want for this?" I said, "Really, I am happy if
19 this will get traction." Unfortunately, it did
20 not gain any traction, and so that's -- but op-ed
21 actually was quite interesting, and I still
22 believe that -- I wish these things were done at
23 the time.

24 BY MS. SAWYER:

25 Q. Did you travel to Afghanistan at all as

1 part of that work?

2 A. No, I have never traveled to Afghanistan
3 as part of that work.

4 Q. Okay. So you traveled there independent
5 of that?

6 A. I traveled there independent of that,
7 yes.

8 Q. Okay. And when you were -- when was
9 that?

10 A. It was a long time ago, actually. [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED], so -- so maybe 2005, 2006.

12 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

13 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

14 Q. Do you know anything about Mr. Ivanov's
15 role with the FSB?

16 A. He is a former officer, and he's a
17 veteran of Afghan campaign.

18 Q. Do you know if he held any other
19 positions within the Russian Government?

20 A. I'm sorry?

21 Q. Do you know if he held other positions
22 within the Russian Government?

23 A. I don't know his exact biography. I know
24 that he was -- he was a FSB officer, a general,
25 FSB general, and he then was -- you know, this

1 Russian drug enforcement agency was created, and
2 it existed actually for a very short time. And it
3 was not -- it was more of a law enforcement
4 agency. And so he was appointed to be head of
5 that agency. Unfortunately, he was not very
6 successful, so he was fired. And I don't even
7 know what happened to him. I haven't been in touch
8 with him.

9 Q. Okay. Do you know Viktor Yanukovych?

10 A. Yanukovych. I never met him.

11 Q. Have you ever attempted to work with Mr.
12 Yanukovych?

13 A. I tried to kind of work for his party,
14 yes.

15 Q. And can you tell me a little bit about
16 that?

17 A. You know, just I am interested, just
18 anyone who is doing communication work. I
19 approached through Ukrainian citizen. He's
20 actually American citizen as well.

21 Q. Who was that?

22 A. His name is Peter Zalmayev, Z-A-L-M-A-Y-
23 E-V. And so he was from the same region of Ukraine
24 where Yanukovych was, and he has some contacts
25 among his party, and it was also a very long time

1 ago, probably 2002, 2003. So I traveled to
2 Ukraine. We met with someone at this thing, and
3 we made a proposal to kind of conduct some work.
4 And -- but it was never accepted, and I never
5 worked for Ukraine. Actually, that's one country
6 I wanted to work for but never did.

7 Q. It wasn't tied to a particular event or
8 issue that was happening? It was general work for
9 Ukraine?

10 A. I think they were in opposition at the
11 time, so, you know, just I thought that it would
12 be good opportunity kind of tell the story in the
13 West.

14 Q. And I think you testified that you had,
15 before June 9th of 2016, not met Paul Manafort.
16 Is that correct?

17 A. I did not meet him, no.

18 Q. So you hadn't done any work with Paul
19 Manafort--

20 A. I never worked --

21 Q. -- for Yanukovych?

22 A. For Yanukovych or anyone else.

23 Q. Okay. Have you ever met Vladimir Putin?

24 A. I never met him.

25 MS. CLAFLIN: Do my colleagues have any

1 questions?

2 MS. SAWYER: Just a quick question.

3 BY MS. SAWYER:

4 Q. You had talked with us and then our
5 colleagues about the document that was at the
6 lunch that you remember Ms. Veselnitskaya bringing
7 to the meeting.

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. And you had referred to having seen a
10 similar version in Russian.

11 A. Correct, yes.

12 Q. And I think your lawyers were taking
13 under advisement whether you had it and would
14 produce it to the Committee. Do you recall the
15 version that you saw in Russian, did it have at
16 the end of the document the point that you had
17 indicated the English version had, which said that
18 -- which mentioned the hedge fund was a
19 contributor to the DNC, meaning the Democratic
20 National Committee?

21 A. I'm not sure I've ever seen English
22 version of that document. I kind of scanned for
23 it, don't remember those exact words, but I
24 remember Ms. Veselnitskaya's presentation. At the
25 end she concluded that -- she finished with that

1 conclusion. But I don't remember specifically
2 seeing the English. I might have scanned for this
3 thing because it kind of looked familiar to me. I
4 don't remember the exact line about DNC in that.
5 I don't have a copy of the English document she
6 brought to that meeting.

7 Q. Okay. And had you seen that particular
8 point in the Russian version?

9 A. I don't remember now. I need to check.

10 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

11 MS. CLAFLIN: Okay. I think we'll go off
12 the record at 1:40.

13 [Recess at 1:40 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.]

14 MR. DAVIS: Okay. We'll go back on the
15 record. It is 1:45.

16 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY
17 BY MR. DAVIS:

18 Q. Again, I'll be going over some topics
19 that my colleagues did, but I have a few other
20 questions.

21 A. Of course.

22 Q. And I want to introduce some documents.
23 So on the topic of hacking, Mr. Akhmetshin, when
24 did you first learn that the Democratic National
25 Committee had been hacked?

1 A. I probably saw it from the media reports.

2 Q. When did you first learn that John
3 Podesta's emails had been hacked?

4 A. To be honest, I didn't follow that
5 closely, but probably it's from same reports.

6 Q. Were you involved in the hacking of the
7 DNC or John Podesta?

8 A. Absolutely no.

9 Q. Were you involved in the distribution of
10 materials obtained through the hacks of the DNC or
11 John Podesta?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Other than what you've read in news
14 reports, do you know who hacked the DNC or John
15 Podesta?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. I have to ask whether you were involved
18 in the hacking of the DNC, in part given the
19 history of allegations that you've been involved
20 in hacking before, which my colleagues addressed.
21 I'd like you to take a look at a few documents,
22 and then I'll ask some related questions.

23 First, please take a look at a sworn
24 declaration by Akis Phanartzis, which is from the
25 International Mineral Resources litigation in

1 2014. This will be Exhibit 15.

2 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 15 was marked for

3 identification.]

4 BY MR. DAVIS:

5 Q. According to the declaration, Mr.

6 Phanartzis was a senior manager with the company

7 hired to investigate allegations that you had

8 organized the hacking of IMR in an attempt to

9 collect information that could be used in a smear

10 campaign against the company. The declaration

11 explains that Mr. Phanartzis conducted physical

12 surveillance of you and an unidentified

13 businessman at a coffee shop in London. If you

14 could turn to paragraphs 13 and 14. Paragraphs 13

15 and 14 of the declaration state, "After exchanging

16 pleasantries, Mr. Akhmetshin handed the

17 businessman an external hard drive and stated that

18 it contained internal documents and emails from

19 IMR. Mr. Akhmetshin explained that the hard drive

20 contained memos, emails, and stuff, and that they

21 are all these folders and documents about

22 transactions, memos, statements, and stuff. There

23 are email attachments."

24 "Mr. Akhmetshin further stated there are

25 directories and subdirectories. There are folders

1 for different things. Mr. Akhmetshin described
2 how the documents were obtained. Mr. Akhmetshin
3 stated that he organized the hacking of IMR's
4 computer systems specifically on behalf of
5 EuroChem, which was in a dispute with IMR over a
6 mining project near the Russian city of
7 Kotelnikovo."

8 "Mr. Akhmetshin further stated that he
9 used a group of Russians to do the actual hacking
10 and that I had to pay a lot of money to get this
11 stuff."

12 Then on paragraph 18, the declaration
13 states, "Mr. Akhmetshin explained that one of the
14 persons he was dealing with at EuroChem was the
15 company's head of security who he described as a
16 former KGB agent."

17 After referencing the lawyers for
18 EuroChem, paragraph 21 states, "Mr. Akhmetshin
19 added that he was hired because there were certain
20 things that the law firm could not do."

21 Now, Mr. Akhmetshin, in the litigation
22 between IMR and EuroChem, you were subpoenaed but
23 withheld documents, alleging various privileges.
24 However, after an in camera review in 2015, Judge
25 Kessler of DDC found there was sufficient evidence

1 of illegal hacking to rule that the crime fraud
2 exception applied. Her opinion will be Exhibit
3 16.

4 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 16 was marked for
5 identification.]

6 BY MR. DAVIS:

7 Q. On page 14, Judge Kessler wrote, "IMR's
8 claims that Mr. Akhmetshin organized the hacking
9 of IMR-related computers and searched for specific
10 information there are supported by emails between
11 Mr. Akhmetshin and ECVK's counsel." She quotes
12 your emails to ECVK's counsel: "Mr. Akhmetshin
13 writes the project is already up and running and
14 it is turning up the info. Patrick, the indexing
15 is done. Can you please send me a list of terms,
16 names for a scan? Dear Patrick, it looks like the
17 work is finally completed. Just spoke with the
18 guy. He said they pulled everything that was
19 available. Need to go collect it sometime after
20 the holidays."

21 Judge Kessler then noted your emails
22 referencing an object, mentioned only as "the
23 thing," which must be dropped off. She quotes
24 your email stating, "I really hope to be able to
25 have the thing in the next day or two. Plan to

1 finding that the requisite showing to have the
2 next step performed had been met.

3 MR. DAVIS: Agreed. Thank you for that
4 clarification.

5 BY MR. DAVIS:

6 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, did you work with Russian
7 hackers to hack IMR?

8 A. Absolutely not, sir. No.

9 Q. Did you otherwise organize the hacking of
10 IMR?

11 A. I did not.

12 Q. Were you involved in any way in the
13 hacking of IMR?

14 A. I was not involved in hacking of IMR or
15 anyone else ever.

16 Q. Were you involved in the distribution of
17 information obtained by hacking IMR?

18 A. I am not aware of any information or
19 distributing information obtained from the
20 hacking, sir.

21 Q. Have you ever worked --

22 MR. FOSTER: I'm sorry. Is that a "no"?

23 MR. AKHMETSHIN: No. No.

24 BY MR. DAVIS:

25 Q. Have you ever worked with hackers?

1 A. I don't know any hackers, never worked
2 with--

3 Q. You don't know any hackers. What
4 happened to the lawsuit filed against you over the
5 IMR hack?

6 A. I was never even -- even after -- many
7 months after it was filed, I was never even served
8 in that lawsuit, and it was an allegation which
9 they never follow through -- that they -- it is my
10 understanding they never have any intention to
11 kind of prosecute that lawsuit, and that was at
12 least one of the tactics in billion dollar
13 litigation.

14 Q. Were you involved in any settlement
15 relating to these claims?

16 A. I think I was part of the settlement at
17 some point, yes.

18 Q. Do you recall what the terms of the
19 settlement were?

20 A. I do not remember terms of settlement. I
21 think nondisclosure was one of those for sure.

22 Q. As part of the settlement, did you admit
23 to any of the facts IMR alleged?

24 A. Absolutely not.

25 Q. The declaration that outlined the

1 physical surveillance of you at the cafe in London
2 claimed that you stated you can perform services a
3 law firm cannot do. What services do you provide
4 that a law firm cannot do?

5 MR. TREMONTE: Well, the question assumes
6 that you agree with the allegation.

7 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I strenuously dispute those
8 allegations.

9 MR. DAVIS: Fair enough.

10 MR. AKHMETSHIN: And as I disputed them as a
11 part of this lawsuit.

12 BY MR. DAVIS:

13 Q. Okay. A New York Times article about you
14 which my colleagues referenced earlier titled
15 "Lobbyist at Trump Campaign Meeting Has a Web of
16 Russian Connections," which I will make an
17 exhibit--

18 MR. TREMONTE: Do we need these or --

19 MR. DAVIS: I think we're done with this.
20 This will be Exhibit 18.

21 BY MR. FOSTER:

22 Q. So before we move on to Exhibit 18, let's
23 go back to the question I asked in an earlier
24 round. So what services -- without regard to the
25 claim that you provide services that law firms

1 can't do, what services do you provide for law
2 firms when you are hired as a consultant? I think
3 you earlier described that you reviewed documents
4 to find inconsistencies, and those are services
5 that lawyers can do for themselves. So what
6 unique -- how do you market yourself to these
7 lawyers? How do you get -- what services do you
8 provide?

9 A. I have a good eye, and I think that's
10 worth something. And I charge people to find
11 something which might stand out which is not
12 trivial. Lawyers know facts, and I'm sure there
13 are plenty of Russian-speaking lawyers as well.
14 But I think I'm very good in just seeing some
15 patterns and for reading documents, and it's a
16 skill I developed, and as a researcher, I have a
17 Ph.D., and so I think that, you know, it's a
18 combination of my knowledge of business and
19 political/geopolitical issues, plus ability to
20 read and kind of synthesize the information. I
21 think I charge people money for that.

22 Q. So you have no formal legal training?

23 A. I have no formal legal training, no.

24 Q. And do you have any formal training in
25 this type of -- in any type of financial research

1 or business research?

2 A. I have -- I developed it.

3 MR. TREMONTE: Do you have formal training?

4 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't. I don't. Thank
5 you.

6 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 18 was marked for
7 identification.]

8 BY MR. DAVIS:

9 Q. Referring to this New York Times article,
10 it raises allegations or at least implies that you
11 may have been involved in an attempted hacking of
12 lawyers working for Mr. Ashot Egiazaryan. Did you
13 hack or attempt to hack anyone as part of your
14 work against Mr. Egiazaryan?

15 A. Absolutely not, sir, no. And let me
16 state for the record this allegation is so far-
17 fetched and inaccurate, such I can't even like
18 describe how upset and angry I am over this
19 absolute lie.

20 Q. Understood. Mr. Akhmetshin, have you
21 ever provided any documents or information to
22 WikiLeaks, whether directly or indirectly?

23 A. Never, sir, no.

24 Q. I'd like to also address your work with
25 Mr. Viktor Ivanov. I believe my colleagues

1 already in your discussion with them discussed the
2 placing of the op-ed in the Washington Times and
3 your work with the Carnegie Endowment --

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. -- to prepare his public presentation.
6 I'd just like to introduce this email chain from
7 your deposition in the Egiazaryan case, and it's
8 just the email, the documents, the placing of that
9 op-ed.

10 MR. DAVIS: This will be 19.

11 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 19 was marked for
12 identification.]

13 MR. DAVIS: And I don't have any further
14 questions about it. I just want to, since it was
15 referenced, get it in there.

16 MR. TREMONTE: So you are just making this
17 part of the record.

18 MR. DAVIS: That's right.

19 BY MR. DAVIS:

20 Q. And you've already clarified that in your
21 work with Mr. Ivanov, you helped place this op-ed.

22 A. Correct, yes.

23 Q. Okay. Then I'd like to briefly at least
24 reference your deposition from the Egiazaryan case
25 and just note that on page 71 you described

1 working with Mr. Ivanov and the Carnegie Endowment
2 in relation to his public presentation there.

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. All right. So as you clarified with my
5 colleagues, Mr. Ivanov was the director of the
6 Federal Drug Control Service for the Russian
7 Federation; is that correct?

8 A. Correct, sir.

9 Q. Okay. If I could return more briefly to
10 your declaration from the Egiazaryan case, which I
11 believe was Exhibit 1, if I can still find it.

12 On page 2, paragraph 5, you say, "Some of
13 my clients are national governments or high-
14 ranking officials in those governments. These are
15 the most sensitive communications in which I
16 engage."

17 And later in that paragraph, you state,
18 "On a separate issue, other communications
19 involved the head of the Russian drug enforcement
20 agency. Topics included and communications on
21 this task range from narcotrafficking and
22 terrorism in Afghanistan to surveillance of
23 undercover agents, suspected undercover agents and
24 their identities. Disclosure of such data could
25 put individual lives at risk, potentially

1 including American lives."

2 Is that a reference to your work for Mr.
3 Ivanov?

4 A. You know, some of these issues, which I
5 learned in the process of preparing this op-ed,
6 involve knowledge of those activities.

7 Q. So that was things you had learned while
8 preparing the op-ed; is that correct?

9 A. Correct, yes.

10 Q. Okay.

11 MR. FOSTER: So the answer to his question
12 is no?

13 MR. AKHMETSHIN: What was the question? Can
14 you repeat it, please?

15 MR. FOSTER: The question was: Is this a
16 reference to your work for Mr. Ivanov?

17 MR. DAVIS: I believe it would be yes
18 because it was a reference to the op-ed he placed.

19 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes, I learned those facts
20 as a -- in order to address that op-ed, I needed
21 to know a little bit more what they are doing in
22 Afghanistan and that those kind of tasks -- I
23 learned a little bit more about what they did.

24 BY MR. DAVIS:

25 Q. So we previously referenced your Second

1 Declaration in the IMR litigation when we talked
2 about the London Information Bazaar, but I'd like
3 to refer to your First Declaration in that case.
4 This will be Exhibit 20.

5 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 20 was marked for
6 identification.]

7 BY MR. DAVIS:

8 Q. On page 3, there's a somewhat similar
9 statement to the last one. On page 3 you state,
10 "Other matters that my private consulting practice
11 has worked on include issues relating to
12 narcotrafficking, drug eradication, and terrorism
13 in Afghanistan and surveillance of undercover
14 agents and suspected undercover agents. I have
15 been told that our efforts have helped save
16 American lives, particularly in theaters such as
17 Afghanistan, and reduced the flow of narcotics
18 originating in Afghanistan worldwide."

19 Is that also a reference to your work for
20 Mr. Ivanov?

21 A. Yes. I learned this and also read news
22 reports. I haven't had communication with Mr.
23 Ivanov after that encounter in Washington, but,
24 you know, I later learned that some of these
25 efforts were not futile.

1 MR. TREMONTE: The answer to that question
2 is yes.

3 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes.

4 BY MR. DAVIS:

5 Q. And did you personally work on
6 surveillance of undercover agents and suspected
7 undercover agents?

8 A. I never worked on this, no.

9 Q. When did your work for Mr. Ivanov
10 conclude?

11 A. It was probably the time when he left.

12 Q. Do you recall which year that was?

13 A. I don't remember. It's a long time ago.

14 MR. DAVIS: Okay. I'd like you to refer to
15 one more document. This is a press release from
16 the Treasury Department from March of 2014. This
17 will be Exhibit 21.

18 [Akhmetshin Exhibit 21 was marked for
19 identification.]

20 MR. TREMONTE: March 20, 2014.

21 BY MR. DAVIS:

22 Q. This is the announcement that the U.S.
23 was, pursuant to Executive Order 13661,
24 sanctioning Viktor Ivanov and other Russian
25 Government officials relating to the Russian

1 invasion of Ukraine. This release states, "Victor
2 Ivanov has been director of the Federal Drug
3 Control Service of the Russian Federation since
4 May 15, 2008; he was appointed as a member of the
5 Security Council of the Russian Federation on May
6 25, 2008. Ivanov has served in a number of other
7 government positions prior to that; he was
8 Assistant to the President of the Russian
9 Federation from 2004 to 2008; and Deputy Chief of
10 the Administration of the Russian Federation from
11 2000 to 2004. Ivanov joined the KGB in 1977 and
12 eventually rose to become the Deputy Director of
13 the Federal Security Service. Ivanov is a close
14 ally of Putin and served alongside Putin as the
15 chief of staff of the St. Petersburg Mayor's
16 office in 1994 when Putin was first deputy head of
17 the city's administration."

18 Mr. Akhmetshin, did you perform any work
19 for Mr. Ivanov after March 20, 2014?

20 A. No, I never even -- I haven't heard from
21 him in years.

22 Q. Okay. Did you ever register under the
23 Foreign Agents Registration Act for your work for
24 Mr. Ivanov?

25 A. Never.

1 Q. Have you ever registered under the
2 Foreign Agents Registration Act?

3 A. I did not, no.

4 Q. Have you ever received a letter of
5 inquiry from the Justice Department regarding the
6 potential need to register under the Foreign
7 Agents Registration Act?

8 A. I did receive one this spring.

9 Q. This spring?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And what work was that relating to?

12 A. It referred to my work for HRAGI.

13 Q. Did you respond to that DOJ letter of
14 inquiry?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Can you state in general what your
17 response was?

18 MR. TREMONTE: Hold on a second.

19 [Counsel confers with witness.]

20 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes, sir, I would like to
21 clarify. I was involved in these matters which
22 required -- because I was working with the council
23 at that time, and I worked on matters which
24 required FARA registration, but the council filed
25 this exemption request, and those were granted.

1 BY MR. DAVIS:

2 Q. Was that in reference to your HRAGI work
3 or previous work?

4 A. Previous work.

5 Q. Previous work, okay. So you received --
6 your counsel filed an exemption request? Is that
7 the context?

8 MR. TREMONTE: Excuse me.

9 [Counsel confers with witness.]

10 MR. TREMONTE: Go ahead.

11 BY MR. FOSTER:

12 Q. So, I'm sorry, I didn't understand the
13 last answer. So you're saying there's previous
14 work not related to HRAGI that you had
15 interactions with the FARA unit about, and you --

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Your attorney requested and you received
18 an exemption so that you would not have to file?

19 A. Correct, sir.

20 Q. And what was that in relation to?

21 A. It was in relation representing
22 Government of Kyrgyzstan on this air force base
23 work.

24 Q. Could you be a little more specific?
25 What do you mean on "air force base work"?

1 A. You know, we represented Government of
2 Kyrgyzstan on a number of issues, the air force
3 lease and recovering of their assets and other
4 things. And that work would have required
5 registering under FARA, but I worked for the law
6 firm at that time, and the law firm filed a
7 request for exemption from registering, and that
8 exemption was granted.

9 Q. On what basis?

10 A. I'm not sure. I was told by the law firm
11 that it was --

12 MR. TREMONTE: You don't want to get into
13 privileged communications.

14 BY MR. DAVIS:

15 Q. Which law firm was it?

16 A. It was BakerHostetler.

17 Q. [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]



1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]

17 Q. Do you know Secretary Clinton?

18 A. I do know her, yes.

19 Q. You know Hillary Clinton? What's the --
20 how do you know her?

21 A. Personal.

22 Q. How long have you known her?

23 A. Probably I met her first like in late
24 '90s.

25 Q. Was that through Ed Lieberman?

1 A. Through his wife.

2 Q. And how would you describe your
3 relationship with her now?

4 A. Nonexistent. Last time I saw her, at the
5 funeral of Evelyn Lieberman.

6 MR. DAVIS: Okay. Now my colleague Ms.
7 Nikas I think has some additional questions for
8 you.

9 BY MS. NIKAS:

10 Q. Going back to the time when you first
11 came to the U.S., I just have a few questions.
12 You became a citizen in 2009; is that correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Okay. And how did you first come to the
15 U.S.?

16 A. I entered United States to attend
17 graduate school.

18 Q. Okay. And which visa did you apply for?

19 A. I think F-1 visa. It's a student visa.

20 Q. Do you remember which year that was?

21 A. A visa was granted to me in late 1993,
22 and I remember arriving to United States on
23 January 1, 1994.

24 Q. Had you traveled to the U.S. before you
25 came in '94?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And for what purpose did you seek a
3 student visa?

4 A. To continue my graduate studies in
5 chemistry.

6 Q. Was that at Catholic University?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And what brought you to Catholic
9 University specifically to study?

10 A. I applied to several schools. They were
11 the ones who have -- gave me better terms and want
12 me.

13 Q. Did you complete your degree program?

14 A. Correct, yes. I obtained Ph.D. from
15 Catholic.

16 Q. Did you pursue a specialty area within
17 the field of chemistry?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was that specialty area?

20 A. Bioorganic chemistry.

21 Q. Upon graduation, did you ever practice in
22 the field of chemistry or pursue employment based
23 on your Ph.D. in chemistry?

24 A. I was a postdoctoral fellow for a while,
25 and I was actively looking for a job in chemistry.

1 But in D.C. it's not that easy to find.

2 Q. Okay. You previously stated that you're
3 from Kazan, Russia, and the Times article
4 mentioned, which is Exhibit 18 that's already been
5 introduced, that you pursued a degree in chemistry
6 at the Kazan State University before you came to
7 the U.S. Is that correct?

8 A. Correct, ma'am.

9 Q. And why did you choose the Kazan State
10 University?

11 A. Because I lived there.

12 Q. And to the best of your knowledge, is the
13 university a publicly funded or privately funded
14 organization?

15 A. It was still U.S.S.R. at that time, so it
16 was -- there are no private universities, so it's
17 public university, state university. It's
18 actually one of the oldest schools in Russia.

19 Q. To the best of your knowledge, is it
20 still publicly funded, or is it now a private --

21 A. It's still state university.

22 Q. And did you pursue a similar course of
23 study to what you pursued at Catholic University?

24 A. My degree, my undergrad degree in Kazan
25 University was in physical chemistry, and

1 professor at Catholic University was interested in
2 having someone in her lab team with this
3 experience of the kinetics, you know, it's
4 measuring the speeds of reactions and kind of --
5 she was actively seeking someone with that kind of
6 capacity and knowledge, and as I mentioned, again,
7 it's probably one of the oldest and most
8 prestigious universities. The only chemical
9 element which was discovered in Russia was
10 discovered in Kazan. It's Ruthenium. And so she
11 was actually looking for a graduate student with
12 that qualifications, and -- but when I entered
13 this, I still used some of the stuff I did in
14 Kazan in physical chemistry, but my degree was in
15 bioorganic chemistry. So it was about these
16 enzymes, mostly blood enzymes. Majority of my
17 Ph.D. thesis about the kinetics of blood enzymes.

18 Q. Okay. And you said that a professor at
19 Catholic was seeking someone with your
20 credentials.

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. So did Catholic University pursue you?

23 A. There was a professor at Kazan University
24 who had a relationship with this professor in
25 Catholic University, so she asked her do you know

1 any like interesting people who are interested in
2 joining my lab, and I was kind of was her
3 recommendation. But I applied as everyone else.
4 But she definitely was instrumental with --
5 hundreds of people apply, so she was interested in
6 having me.

7 Q. Do you recall her name?

8 A. My professor at Catholic?

9 Q. Your professor.

10 A. Ildiko Kovach. Ildiko, I-L-D-I-K-O;
11 Kovach, K-O-V-A-C-H.

12 Q. And the professor at Kazan State, do you
13 recall her name? It's a her?

14 A. Yeah. She passed away a few years ago.
15 Her name was Rose, R-O-S -- Rosa. Rosa. Last
16 name, Arshinova, A-R-S-H-I-N-O-V-A. She later
17 left academia and worked for Monsanto Company.
18 She passed away a few years back.

19 Q. While you were pursuing a chemistry
20 degree at Kazan State, did you work?

21 A. I did work, yes.

22 Q. What was the nature of your work?

23 A. I was a night guard. You know, I had
24 just came out of the army. It was my grandmother
25 and my sister, so I needed money, so I worked as a

1 night guard. And I also got into this -- some, you
2 know, used parts, this new business. I was
3 trading scrap metal.

4 Q. Did you work for the university at all?

5 A. I might have had like, you know, like
6 lab-- you know, university tries to support
7 students, and I might have gotten some little
8 money, like 20 rubles here and there, but just for
9 -- from the research work. But nothing
10 significant.

11 Q. For research. Do you recall what type of
12 research you conducted?

13 A. It's in my lab. Just my professor at
14 Kazan University was giving me kind of -- are you
15 talking about Kazan or --

16 Q. Kazan.

17 A. Kazan, yes, so just -- you know, they had
18 their own grants, and they had some lab positions.
19 So in addition to working, you do some lab work.
20 You know, just kind of -- you know, it's something
21 they usually would hire someone outside, but, you
22 know, I did this like, you know, to purify
23 liquids, solvents, you know. I mean, do like
24 menial pretty much work, which is not very kind of
25 -- it does not require a high degree but still

1 requires certain skills.

2 Q. And going back to your previous military
3 history, when did you begin your service? And
4 what was your occupational specialty or
5 corresponding job duties?

6 A. I was drafted after my first year in
7 university in June 1986, and I was assigned to
8 something called Commandant Service of the troops.
9 And I was -- kind of performed a variety of
10 different tasks in that capacity in that unit.

11 Q. Can you recall which tasks you performed?

12 A. I did a lot of guard duty. I was --
13 served also as a courier. I carried documents and
14 like, you know, they give you briefcase with this
15 handcuff briefcase, like gun and two guys with AK-
16 47s, and then, you know, they tell you to go
17 somewhere, take a train, or, you know, just...

18 Q. And so you were drafted in 1986. When
19 did you complete your service?

20 A. I was demobilized -- that's the term
21 called demobilized -- in -- I believe it was in
22 June of 1988.

23 Q. And what was your rank at the end of your
24 service term?

25 A. Sergeant.

1 Q. The New York Times article that we had
2 mentioned earlier said that you were a
3 communications specialist. Can you explain what a
4 communications specialist is?

5 A. Carrying documents.

6 Q. Only carrying documents?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. That same article referenced again in
9 1991 you had joined the service. For what purpose
10 did you join the service for a single year?

11 A. I commissioned -- it actually wasn't then
12 a year. I commissioned as an officer, first
13 lieutenant, in 1991. And because at that time I -
14 - there was an option in the university where you
15 could kind of take like ROTC kind of thing, so you
16 take classes to commission as an officer. So in
17 parallel to pursuing my kind of studies, I also
18 took some extra classes, and kind of -- and then
19 afterwards, I was commissioned as a lieutenant in
20 chemical and biological defense.

21 Q. And how long did you serve in that role?

22 A. Three months.

23 Q. Why did you end that service?

24 A. There's no need for officers at that
25 time. The wall was coming down, you know, just the

1 troops were coming back. There were way more real
2 officers who kind of went to better schools, and
3 they were all kind of fired. So there was
4 absolutely no need anymore. And I was never even
5 offered to join the service, and I had no interest
6 in joining the service.

7 Q. Except for in 1991 when you --

8 A. No, no. I was interested like at least--
9 at least just in case. You know, it wasn't that
10 difficult for me to take these classes like once a
11 week. You take like 3 hours. It wasn't a big
12 deal for me.

13 Q. Which extra classes did you take?

14 A. Like very specific class in chemical
15 defense, what has happened, like nuclear bomb
16 falls. It's not a very romantic thing. You wear
17 scrub suits, and you just go, like wash off
18 things, you know, just -- it's chemical defense.
19 I mean, you study -- it's all chemistry-related.

20 Q. In addition to the term in 1991, have you
21 served in the military in any other capacity?

22 A. No, never.

23 Q. Did you have to undergo weapons training
24 as part of your service?

25 A. I did, yes.

1 Q. Can you explain that weapons training?

2 A. It was like everyone does it, and you --
3 they teach you to shoot. They teach you to kind
4 of -- nothing specific. I wasn't very good at
5 that. But, you know, every 6 months you take a
6 test or like even 3 months, you know, they kind of
7 commission you. You have to kind of continue have
8 proficiency, just like every 3 months you run 3K,
9 you do pull-ups, you know, just -- it's regular
10 like tests. I'm sure every military has it.

11 Q. And during your time serving, were you
12 deployed or did you fight in any foreign wars?

13 A. I never was in a combat capacity, never
14 saw a combat capacity.

15 Q. Okay. You mentioned that you had
16 traveled to Afghanistan in 2005, 2006. What was
17 the purpose for that travel?

18 A. There was this private businessman asked
19 me to kind of conduct some communication work.

20 Q. Communication work related to your
21 training as a communications specialist?

22 A. Oh, no. No, no. Just it's completely
23 different. So it's a northern province of
24 Afghanistan called Balkh Province, and at that
25 time it was right after the elections, and there

1 was this danger that there will be this kind of
2 fighting because the governor of that province was
3 someone, someone who was very close to this
4 businessman, Tajik businessman, and they wanted to
5 kind of tell a story. And, actually, to this day I
6 think it's probably one of the most safe and nicer
7 parts of Afghanistan, so the women don't wear
8 hijabs there. It's just they go to school. It's
9 very kind of forward-looking thing. So I went
10 there just to try and kind of develop stories. At
11 that time there was a danger that like government
12 in Kabul sent their own person to be governor, and
13 this governor who was there -- and war would have
14 been started with all these former commanders, and
15 so it's a -- General Noor Atta was the governor at
16 that time. So -- and there was this kind of whole
17 Tajik-Pashtun split at that time, so there were
18 some -- they wanted to kind of emphasize role of
19 Tajiks in this Afghan society, because Tajiks are
20 a minority there. But they still have probably
21 much stronger financial power and are more --
22 better educated people, and -- but there was at
23 that time this -- Karzai was the president, so
24 there was these kind of -- so it's more like
25 telling a story, help him actually tell a story.

1 Q. Did you write stories?

2 A. I did not write stories, but I kind of --
3 I developed some talking points for them. I
4 contacted journalists, and there were a number of
5 very good stories were published from -- at that
6 time by Western media from them.

7 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, I know we had talked
8 about this before, my colleagues have talked about
9 it before, but I want to revisit something. Have
10 you ever worked as an intelligence officer or
11 agent with the Russian Government or former Soviet
12 Union, including as part of the GRU, or with any
13 security agencies in the former Soviet Union?

14 A. No, ma'am.

15 Q. Do you currently?

16 A. I never worked for -- never worked or
17 work, no, for intelligence agency, never got that
18 training. I was an army sergeant, army officer.

19 Q. I want to turn back to your time now as a
20 student at Catholic University. When you were a
21 student, did you perform any research or work
22 while you were in your field of study, either for
23 the university or elsewhere?

24 A. I did, yes, ma'am.

25 Q. And what was that?

1 A. In order to get a Ph.D., you need to kind
2 of publish in a magazine and to perform research,
3 not just taking classes. So you need original
4 scientific work, and that was the work I was doing
5 there.

6 MR. TREMONTE: And did you publish?

7 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I published extensively --
8 I wouldn't say "extensively," but I published in
9 very good magazines, you know, contribute your
10 monographs.

11 BY MS. NIKAS:

12 Q. Were you ever employed by the
13 International Eurasian Institute for Economic and
14 Political Research?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In what capacity?

17 A. I was working as a director here in
18 Washington.

19 Q. And what was the time frame for that?

20 A. This institute kind of became -- after
21 Kazakhstan 21st Century Foundation was closed, it
22 became -- it morphed into this International
23 Eurasian Institute because it had much broader
24 focus on Central Asia. So probably from 2000 --
25 or 1999, 2000, through probably until recently, it

1 still -- you know, we still file tax returns.

2 Q. So it's still an active --

3 A. It's not -- I mean, we haven't -- I mean,
4 formerly active. It hasn't been doing work in a
5 while but, you know, it's still in existence.
6 They file tax returns.

7 Q. Did you seek work authorization from the
8 then-Immigration and Naturalization Service while
9 you were on your student visa? Do you recall?

10 A. I definitely did not work illegally here,
11 but I'm certain -- I don't remember details of
12 that, but I think that, you know, there are
13 certain arrangements which were made for me to --

14 MR. TREMONTE: Do you remember specifically?

15 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't remember
16 specifically. I might have, but it's been such a
17 long time.

18 BY MS. NIKAS:

19 Q. You mentioned you were an office
20 director. What did you do in that capacity?

21 A. I directed the work of the institute. I
22 hired lobbying firms, PR firms, you know, just
23 kind of communicated with journalists. I was
24 developing stories, you know.

25 Q. Do you recall how many employees the

1 institute employed?

2 A. We had never more than one or two. It
3 was a small kind of group.

4 Q. And --

5 BY MR. FOSTER:

6 Q. Who funds it?

7 A. It was funded through donations by the
8 people give to Central Asia, and I believe
9 original money came from some of the corporations,
10 including American.

11 Q. So who gathered the -- were you involved
12 in fundraising for it?

13 A. I never fundraised, but there was this
14 gentleman, these whole activities of both entities
15 were centered around this former prime minister of
16 Kazakhstan. I think he was someone who was kind
17 of person who was raising money.

18 Q. And who was that?

19 A. Akezhan, A-K-E-Z-H-A-N, Kazhegeldin, K-A-
20 Z-H-E-G-E-L-D-I-N.

21 BY MS. NIKAS:

22 Q. Do you recall if Mr. Lieberman was
23 employed by the institute or conducted any
24 business with the institute?

25 A. He was legal adviser or his law firm was

1 adviser to the institute, yes.

2 Q. Do you recall for which time frame that
3 occurred?

4 A. Probably for most of the time, yes.

5 Q. To the best of your knowledge, does Mr.
6 Lieberman work as an agent of or in any way do
7 business on behalf of the Russian Government?

8 MR. TREMONTE: To the best --

9 MR. AKHMETSHIN: To best -- no.

10 MR. TREMONTE: Just trying to streamline the
11 process here. We're pushing up against 2:30, and
12 we're here voluntarily and happy to answer all
13 your questions. It does feel to me like we're
14 going over stuff that we've now done at least
15 twice. But go ahead.

16 BY MS. NIKAS:

17 Q. So you were naturalized in 2009. Do you
18 recall after you applied for and received your
19 student visa whether you adjusted your status to
20 become a citizen based on that visa? Or was there
21 an additional visa that you applied for?

22 A. I do not remember specifically this
23 thing, but I'm absolutely certain that at no time
24 during my presence in the United States I was
25 violating immigration laws.

1 MR. TREMONTE: Hold on. So these are highly
2 specific questions for which --

3 MS. NIKAS: To the best of his knowledge.

4 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes.

5 MR. TREMONTE: Okay. Go ahead.

6 MR. AKHMETSHIN: So there might have been
7 some--

8 MR. TREMONTE: Just to the best of your
9 knowledge. Do you remember specifically?

10 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes. I'm probably -- not
11 specifically. No, I don't remember specifically.

12 MR. TREMONTE: Okay.

13 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Thank you.

14 MR. TREMONTE: Sure.

15 BY MS. NIKAS:

16 Q. Are you familiar with the Henry M.
17 Jackson Foundation?

18 A. I am familiar.

19 Q. And to the best of your knowledge, what
20 business does the foundation conduct?

21 A. It's mainly medicinal research
22 foundation. My wife used to work for them.

23 Q. Do you remember what duties she performed
24 when she worked for them?

25 A. She was researcher, I think. She was a

1 scientist.

2 Q. And to the best of your knowledge, do you
3 recall how your wife first became aware of the
4 foundation?

5 A. I think she was employed by them or --

6 MR. TREMONTE: If you know.

7 MR. AKHMETSHIN: No, I don't know.

8 MR. TREMONTE: Yeah, and I question the
9 relevance of the inquiry that is --

10 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Actually --

11 MR. TREMONTE: No, no. Just go ahead. I'm
12 hoping we're getting to the end of this.

13 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yeah, thank you.

14 BY MS. NIKAS:

15 Q. During the time between after you
16 graduated and you were on your student visa and
17 you're not familiar or you can't recall whether
18 you applied for another visa, did you make trips
19 outside of the United States while -- after you
20 graduated and before you became a U.S. citizen in
21 2009?

22 A. I don't remember.

23 Q. Okay.

24 MR. TREMONTE: I'm sorry. Do you have a
25 specific recollection of making trips?

1 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Between 1998 and 2009?

2 MS. NIKAS: Correct.

3 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Oh, yes, definitely.

4 BY MS. NIKAS:

5 Q. Do you recall how many, approximately?

6 A. I don't remember. Three dozen. I don't
7 remember, no.

8 MR. TREMONTE: Thank you.

9 BY MS. NIKAS:

10 Q. Do you recall if you traveled on any
11 foreign visas during that time?

12 MR. TREMONTE: Do you specifically remember
13 traveling on foreign visas during that time?

14 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Yes.

15 BY MS. NIKAS:

16 Q. Did you travel with any business partners
17 during that time?

18 A. I don't remember.

19 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, have you ever been a
20 member of or in any way associated with, either
21 directly or indirectly, the Communist Party,
22 Totalitarian Party, or a terrorist organization?

23 A. Never.

24 MS. NIKAS: Okay. I don't have any more.

25 BY MR. FOSTER:

1 Q. Earlier we were talking about your
2 conversations with journalists about the Trump
3 Tower meeting, after the meeting but long before
4 the news of the meeting broke publicly. During
5 that time frame, did you ever discuss that meeting
6 with Mr. Glenn Simpson?

7 A. I never discussed it with Glenn Simpson.

8 Q. You have never at any time discussed it
9 with Glenn --

10 A. I don't remember that. I have no memory
11 of that.

12 MR. TREMONTE: You have no memory of ever
13 discussing --

14 MR. AKHMETSHIN: Discussing with Glenn --

15 MR. TREMONTE: -- the meeting with Glenn
16 Simpson.

17 MR. AKHMETSHIN: -- Simpson.

18 BY MR. FOSTER:

19 Q. At any time?

20 A. At any time, no, I don't remember it.

21 Q. You also said in earlier rounds that you
22 were surprised that Ms. Veselnitskaya was able to
23 get the meeting with Trump, Jr. Did you ask her
24 how she was able to obtain the meeting with Trump,
25 Jr.?

1 A. I did not.

2 Q. You never discussed that with her despite
3 your surprise?

4 A. I didn't discuss it, no.

5 Q. Did you ask anybody else how she got the
6 meeting with Trump, Jr.?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And how were you first introduced to
9 Natalia Veselnitskaya?

10 A. I was introduced in the office of
11 BakerHostetler at the end of 2015.

12 Q. Okay. And how did you come to get your
13 work--

14 A. I --

15 Q. -- for BakerHostetler?

16 MR. TREMONTE: Hold it, hold it. Let him
17 ask his question.

18 BY MR. FOSTER:

19 Q. How did you come to work for
20 BakerHostetler?

21 A. I have --

22 Q. On the Prevezon matter. Sorry.

23 A. I worked with that firm on a number of
24 other issues in the past, and they knew me well,
25 and they invited me to work on that issue.

1 Q. And that's the first interaction that you
2 had with Denis Katsyv?

3 A. Correct, yes.

4 Q. So you mentioned that your meeting with
5 Trump, Jr., was -- it was interesting, remarkable,
6 it was an unusual meeting, which is why you
7 mentioned it to your journalist friends. Have you
8 ever had other meetings with close associates of
9 political candidates or the chief of a major
10 political campaign before?

11 MR. TREMONTE: In the U.S.?

12 MR. FOSTER: In the U.S. An American
13 campaign.

14 MR. AKHMETSHIN: In this cycle or --

15 BY MR. FOSTER:

16 Q. Yeah, during an election cycle.

17 MR. TREMONTE: Any election cycle.

18 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I knew Senator McCain when
19 he was running years ago because I had friends who
20 were-- did advance work for him.

21 BY MR. FOSTER:

22 Q. Presidential campaign?

23 A. Presidential campaign, yes.

24 Q. Any other Presidential campaign besides
25 Senator McCain's?

1 A. I have friends who also did this for Jon
2 -- what's his name? -- Huntsman. The same people,
3 they ran his campaign, was not very successful.

4 Q. Did you ever have any meetings with the
5 Hillary Clinton campaign or campaign officials?

6 A. Not with officials, no.

7 MR. TREMONTE: Are you talking about her
8 Presidential campaign?

9 MR. FOSTER: Right.

10 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I was not involved in her
11 Presidential campaign.

12 BY MR. FOSTER:

13 Q. Well, regardless of whether you were
14 involved, did you ever have any meetings?

15 A. I knew her, I knew some people who worked
16 on her campaign.

17 Q. So you did have meetings with her and --
18 did you have meetings with Hillary Clinton?

19 A. I met her in social setting, not on a
20 professional line.

21 Q. Not in a campaign --

22 A. Not in campaign capacity, no, never.

23 Q. Did you ever do any work related to the
24 Clinton Foundation?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Did you ever have any communications with
2 anyone about the Clinton Foundation?

3 A. No.

4 MR. HOLMES: I have just one follow-up.

5 BY MR. HOLMES:

6 Q. Michael Weiss, the CNN reporter.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I believe you indicated earlier that he
9 was writing articles you believed to be false
10 about you. And you also indicated that he was
11 conferring with Bill Browder on that matter, and
12 you were going to confer with your counsel, I
13 think, during the break and tell us if you could
14 illuminate on that.

15 A. Yes, there was this -- it's also
16 connected to this Prevezon matter and the first
17 time he has written also about Prevezon matters.
18 And I believe at one point the letter was drafted
19 by the BakerHostetler addressing those allegations
20 to the editors of -- at that time he was with
21 Daily Beast, I believe.

22 Q. Okay. So if I recall correctly, the
23 question-- you said that -- you said that Mr.
24 Weiss had been paid by Mr. Browder.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I asked you what the basis of that
2 statement was, and your attorney --

3 A. The letter specifically alleged possible
4 payments from Mr. Browder to Mr. Weiss.

5 Q. What letter?

6 A. The letter which was sent by law firm to
7 the editors of Daily Beast.

8 Q. And that letter forms the only basis for
9 your--

10 A. That's the only basis. I don't have
11 independent knowledge of that, but I have
12 independent knowledge of articles being false.

13 MR. HOLMES: Okay. We can go off the record
14 at 2:35.

15 [Recess at 2:35 p.m. to 2:48 p.m.]

16 MS. CLAFLIN: Let's go back on the record at
17 2:48. I just want the record to reflect that one
18 of our colleagues, Jennifer Piatt, has joined.

19 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY
20 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

21 Q. Mr. Akhmetshin, you were asked a number
22 of questions about your military service. Did you
23 list that on your naturalization application?

24 A. I believe so, yes.

25 Q. And you disclosed that to immigration

1 officials?

2 A. I don't remember now, but I must have.

3 Q. Do you think that's the sort of thing
4 that would have come up in the immigration
5 process?

6 MR. TREMONTE: In response to these
7 questions, you need to be clear. If you know the
8 answer, then say you know the answer. If you
9 don't know the answer, say you don't know the
10 answer.

11 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't know the answer.
12 It's been such a long time ago. I couldn't locate
13 my naturalization form.

14 MR. TREMONTE: Just answer the question.

15 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I'm not sure, ma'am.

16 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

17 Q. Okay. But to your recollection, you
18 don't think you withheld that information from
19 that process?

20 A. I would be surprised.

21 Q. Okay. Do you remember when you were
22 naturalized? Approximately.

23 A. In 2009, I guess.

24 Q. And I think that's when the ceremony took
25 place, but do you know when your application for

1 citizenship was processed and approved?

2 A. I don't remember.

3 Q. Would it surprise you to learn it was
4 October 3rd of 2008, before Barack Obama took
5 office?

6 MR. TREMONTE: Would that surprise you?

7 MR. AKHMETSHIN: I don't know what's the
8 relevance that it wouldn't. So I wanted to be a
9 citizen, and I wanted to do it faster --

10 MR. TREMONTE: Okay. Would it surprise you?

11 MR. AKHMETSHIN: No.

12 MR. TREMONTE: No. Okay.

13 MS. CLAFLIN: All right. I think that is
14 all we have, so we will go off the record now at
15 2:49.

16 [Whereupon the proceedings were adjourned at 2:49

17 p.m.]

18

**Review of the
November 14, 2017
Rinat Akhmetshin
Interview Transcript**

The transcript must be read in the Senate Judiciary Committee, room SD-164.

The reviewer may take notes.

Photos and photocopying of this transcript is strictly prohibited.

MICHAEL TREMONTE
Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

Rinat Akhmetshin
Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

3/6/18
Date

11:15 AM
Time Out

2:30 PM
Time Returned

CHARLES PARRMETER
Staff Member Returned To (Print Name)

3/6/18
Date

ERRATA SHEET
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
INTERVIEW OF: **RINAT AKHMETSHIN**

PAGE LINE

CHANGE:

REASON:

CHANGE:

REASON:

13 12-13 CHANGE: REDACT ADDRESS

REASON: PERSONAL INFORMATION

19 2 CHANGE: "112129" TO "12129"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

59 18 CHANGE: "publication" to "falsification"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

60 13 CHANGE: "sell" to "tell"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

83 6 CHANGE: "Yuri" to "Hillary"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

102 10 CHANGE: "confidant" to "confidante"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

102 23 CHANGE: "confidant" to "confidante"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

Submitted by: (Signed) _____ Date: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ERRATA SHEET
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
INTERVIEW OF: **RINAT AKHMETSHIN**

PAGE LINE

110 25 CHANGE: "named in that" to "necessary"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

127 16 CHANGE: "to brought those" to "the Browder"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

133 13 CHANGE: "contract" to "contact" (2x)

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

127 23 CHANGE: "publication" to "public relations"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

156 23 CHANGE: "signed information bazaar" to "sign:
information Bazaar"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

160 9 CHANGE: "a" to "the"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

184 2 CHANGE: "visas" to "visits"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

Submitted by: (Signed) _____ Date: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ERRATA SHEET
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
INTERVIEW OF: **RINAT AKHMETSHIN**

PAGE LINE

197 9 CHANGE: "fold" to "follow through"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

199 10 CHANGE: "judge" to "charge"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

REASON: _____

215 3 CHANGE: "schematics" to "kinetics"

REASON: TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

CHANGE: _____

REASON: _____

CHANGE: _____

REASON: _____

CHANGE: _____

REASON: _____

CHANGE: _____

REASON: _____

Submitted by: (Signed) _____ Date: _____

PRINT NAME: _____